



Your Tunbridge Wells

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December 18, 2011 • No 136

Pantiles in renewed call to protect small firms' very survival

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TRADERS on the Pantiles have reignited the debate over the impact of out-of-town retail developments – such as North Farm – on town centre trade as shops look to cash-in during the run-up to Christmas.

It comes after council leader Bob Atwood said he believed the town's independent traders were its secret weapon in battling the spending squeeze.

He rapped out a defiant message that Tunbridge Wells would see off the worst of the economic slump which has left many retailers fighting for their very survival this year.

And he hopes the combination of a diverse range of shops and the ice rink will stop shoppers heading to the likes of Bluewater and central London.

Cllr Atwood said: "We can never hope

to compete with the likes of Bluewater, but in terms of our range and depth, we are very strong.

"Tunbridge Wells has great appeal. It has a good number of small boutique and varied shops, as well as department stores."

His comments come in stark contrast to previous administrations who believed it was the big chain stores which were key to the town's survival and will be a timely boost to traders in the Pantiles and Camden Road who compete with the big brand names that reside within Royal Victoria Place.

Chairman of the Association of Pantiles Traders, Richard Simm, welcomed the comments but warned more must be done to protect the smaller trader.

He said: "Cllr Atwood's correct. Tunbridge Wells' strength is in its independent shops. Although, I'd suggest this is

Continued on page 2



YOU WILL BE UPGRADED

DR WHO: Why the Cybermen are preparing to invade Tunbridge Wells – **SEE INSIDE**

COUNCIL

'Turkey' quip prompts fury

A TOP Tory councillor has been forced to apologise after declaring that consulting on residents' parking permit charges would be akin to asking "turkeys to vote for Christmas". His comments caused uproar among political opponents during a full council meeting.

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CRIME

Hit and run driver hunted

CCTV images of a man police want to quiz over a hit and run which left a police officer injured in Southborough have been released. The officer was dragged for 300 metres by the car as he and a colleague went to speak to the driver last Friday. The policeman was treated in hospital.

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MUSIC

Will Young to play in forest

SINGER Will Young is the latest big name to confirm a date at Bedgebury Pinetum next summer. The Pop Idol winner will perform on June 23 - just 24-hours after a show by Brit Award winner Plan B. They form part of the Forestry Commission Live Music programme.

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MONSTER SALE **STARTS DEC 27TH**

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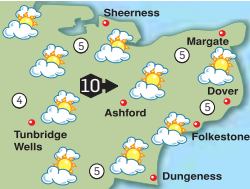
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TODAY: A bright, but cold day with sunny spells. However, there will be a scattering of showers, these wintry at times. Light westerly winds. Max temp 2-5C (36-41F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	03.00	6.2	15.24	6.0
Margate	03.48	4.4	16.27	4.3
St Mary's	08.54	5.1	21.26	4.8

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Max 5C	Min -1C
Monday	Max 6C	Min 2C
Tuesday	Max 10C	Min 6C
Wednesday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Friday	Max 10C	Min 5C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

CONTACTS

Editor: Chris Britcher

Email: chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, TN25 6SS

Editorial: News: 01303 817100

Leisure: 01303 817200

Sport: 01303 817183

Email: tw@kosmedia.co.uk

Advertising: Jobs/Notices: 01303 817040

Business: 01303 817190

Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01303 817150

Email: sales@kosmedia.co.uk

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CRIME

Major hunt launched after police officer sent flying as hit and run driver strikes

By James Benjamin
tw@kosmedia.co.uk

POLICE have released the image of a man they want to quiz after one of its officers was run over and dragged along the road for 300 metres in a terrifying incident in Southborough.

The hit and run took place last Friday night as an officer and his colleague were on patrol near Tunbridge Wells.

They approached a young man who was about to drive out of Springfield Road into London Road.

The officer stood in front of the car, but rather than stop it drove at the policeman, sending the cop up onto the car's bonnet.

The car then sped off towards Tonbridge and the officer's colleague and a member of the public ran after it.

They found the officer lying unconscious in the road about 300 metres from where the incident occurred.

He was taken to hospital where he was treated for bruising but was not left seriously injured. He has since been released and continues to re-



CCTV: Do you recognise this man?

cover from the ordeal.

Now the hunt is on for the man responsible for the incident. And this week a CCTV image was released on a man they want to talk to in connection to the incident.

The driver has receding short black hair, if of small build and is in his mid-twenties. He wore blue jeans

and a red hooded top.

The vehicle is believed to be a silver Vauxhall, possibly an Astra, four-door hatchback, and is thought to be a 55 number plate.

Inspector Justin Watts who is leading the investigation, said: "I would ask members of the public to study the image captured just a few minutes before the incident occurred.

"The suspect visited both Tesco Metro and the kebab shop in Southborough immediately prior to the incident.

"I would urge anyone who recognises the man pictured to contact us or alternatively the suspect may wish to come forward and ease his conscience.

"If anyone recognises the description of the car and/or the driver or saw what happened, they are asked to contact Det Sgt Karen Festing on 01732 379141 or Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

For all the latest news updated seven days a week, see the website www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk.

NATURE

Forest revamp proves a hit with visitors

WILDLIFE reserve Broadwater Warren is under going the latest phase of a major restoration project.

It includes a conifer clearance as part of a ten year project to restore it to heathland, opening up the landscape to allow wildlife to flourish and providing views across the High Weald.

In the last two years more than 50 acres of

dense, dark conifer has been removed, along with areas of rhododendron, bracken and birch, exposing the rich heather seedbank below.

The results are already being seen with heather shoots starting to emerge and rare birds such as nightjars increasing.

Steve Wheatley, RSPB site manager, said: "We're really pleased with how

things are going so far and hope that people visiting the site are able to see the benefits.

"In the long term the restoration will create a much more varied and wildlife rich environment for people to enjoy."

The RSPB has also added an all ability track that provides a smooth surfaced path from the car park to the nightjar viewpoint and mounds have been created for reptiles to bask on during the summer and hibernate under during the winter.

New fencing is also being installed to allow grazing by five Exmoor Ponies. They will arrive in the spring.

The work is being carried out thanks to £120,000 funding from the SITA Trust.

CHARITY

Singers hit the right note with charity CD

SINGING group inChoir hope to raise more than £1,500 for charity with the release of a special CD for Christmas.

The Impossible Dream features a host of well-known songs, including Hallelujah, Angels, Upside Down and the title track.

It features the voices of 160 of the 300-strong membership of the Sussex-based group which has a popular branch in Tunbridge Wells. All monies raised will go towards the British Heart Foundation.

Musical director Mark Heppell said: "It was enormous fun recording the songs with the choir and it's fantastic to be able to raise so much money for such a worthwhile cause." To buy a copy visit the website www.inchoir.co.uk.

BUSINESS

Small traders the secret to a successful Christmas

Continued from front page

true all year round, not just at Christmas.

"Without its independent businesses – retail and otherwise – Tunbridge Wells would look and feel like any other town.

"It's this independence that makes it great, and proves a strength when competing against the likes of Bluewater – free parking can't make up for a lack of soul.

"That said, out of town chain retail – and I include the likes of North Farm in that – sucks away vital trade from Tunbridge Wells' town centre, and that hurts small business.

"I'm glad Cllr Atwood appreciates us, and I look forward to his support in better protecting independent retail in the town."

Meanwhile, the ice rink continues to prove a huge success in pulling in the crowds and last weekend was buoyed by traders from German twin town Wiesbaden.

A free shuttle bus will be operating between the rink in Calverley Grounds and the Pantiles as the historic parade hosts its second Christmas market on both Saturday and Sunday.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Vanilla Ice lights up the stage as Peter Pan ticket sales soar

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VANILLA Ice has proved to be a red hot panto hit as he plays Captain Hook at Medway's Central Theatre.

Seats are "substantially" fuller than almost any other year, more even than for Star Trek star George Takei and the last top act to appear in Chatham, Joe Swash, fresh from winning I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here.

The Ice Baby rapper is on stage with CBeebies star Katy Ashworth who takes the lead role in Peter Pan.



I'M HOOKED: Vanilla Ice says he loves England

Tony Hill from Kent family firm Evolution Pantomimes is staging the show, he said: "Peter Pan with Vanilla Ice is going extremely well, both in terms of creativity and the box office. Tickets sales are substantially up on last year and is on the coat-tails of the year we had Joe Swash.

"It has been going really, really well. Vanilla Ice is beating Takei in popularity. We have been playing to full houses and many of the other performances are running at around 90 to 95 per cent capacity.

"Once the schools finish, things will really get busy because families will be turning out all together. We are looking forward to full houses.

"By the time the run ends, we should have over 30,000 people through the doors. Listening to some of those in the audiences, we are getting people rebooking quite a lot.

"Vanilla Ice does his big number in the show and that always gets everyone on their feet. You hear them talking about that when they leave, it's great. They say they want to come back and see it all again, sometimes just for that one song.

"It's a magnificent moment that everyone seems to really enjoy and are just loving it.

"He is quite a performer. He has not done panto before – it's not something they know in the States.

"But he has come over and learned very quickly and did a bit of homework before he arrived by watching some videos we sent him.

"And he is taking direction really well. He is on stage with a lot of panto professionals and that gives you a real feeling of support and encouragement. He has really gone for it and made it his own, he's a lovely character and people are thrilled to work with him.

"He will be hard act to follow."

Before he took to the stage as the evil Captain Hook, Vanilla Ice, whose real name is Robert Van Winkle, said: "I'd never even heard of a panto mime before. I thought 'what the heck is this?' but it's so much fun.

"I'm there for the kids but there may be some parents who come along who remember the Ice Ice Baby time."



ICE COOL: Vanilla Ice is proving to be a panto hit

He added: "I love it here in England. It's something about the people. They're more witty and have a laugh at things."

The panto runs until Saturday, December 31, and you can book on 01634 338338.

■ For all the latest news and sport from the area see www.yourmedway.co.uk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unemployment rises

THE total number of unemployed people in Kent is up 318 to 35,720, according to the latest figures for the three months to October.

Dover suffered the worst with 118 more people out of work followed by Swale at 65, Shepway, 54, and Thanet, 44.

Three boroughs saw their jobless total fall – Dartford, by 62, Tunbridge Wells, 13, and Canterbury, 12. In Medway the jobless total was up 21 to 7,139.

Jail for teenage killer

TEENAGER Farid Hussani has been sentenced to five years in a young offenders' institute after he admitted the manslaughter of Osman Sherzad at a flat in Marine Terrace, Folkestone, on January 24.

Hussani, who had denied murder, was on trial with five other men. Osman Sherzad, 17, from Channel House, Bradstone Road, Folkestone, died after a single stab wound was inflicted during a fight involving rival groups at the flat.

Beating metal theft

SCRAP metal dealers across the county were visited by police officers this week as part in a national day of action to combat metal thefts.

During the visits log books and other paperwork were scrutinised and vehicles searched.

Officers also used ultraviolet technology to check metals for signs of forensic water marking solutions that may indicate the metal has been stolen.

Chief Supt Steve Corbishley said: "Not only is metal theft a crime, but it often leaves a lasting impact on communities."

TRANSPORT

Relief as road diverts traffic from town centre and speeds up travel

A MAJOR relief road that will ease much of the traffic stress in the centre of Sittingbourne has finally been finished.

Known as the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road, it is just 0.87 miles long and took two years to build, ahead of schedule despite two bad winters.

The single carriageway is to the north east of the town and includes bridges over Milton Creek and the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway.

It was part of a missing link, and now connects sections between Grovehurst interchange on the A249 and Ridham Avenue, plus between Castle Road and the East Hall Farm residential development.

The council said bypassing the town centre will reduce traffic there and bring forward regeneration thanks to improved and more reliable access to the Eurolink Business Estate and East Hall Farm residential development.

Eventually, the £35 million relief road will link the A249 and the A2, including a route round Bapchild.

It was paid for with £23m from the Department for Transport, almost £8m from the Housing and Communities Agency, £4m from developers, and £80,000 from KCC.

The completion ceremony was held this week marking the completion of the much-

needed road, and the public opening is next week.

The ceremony was attended by KCC Swale Central councillor Mike Whiting, leader of Swale Borough Council Cllr Andrew Bowles, and Mayor of Swale, Cllr Ben Stokes.

Cllr Whiting said: "After such a long time in the planning, it is great to see the road opening.

"Times are hard for everyone and this new road will, I believe, benefit the town, its businesses and the eventual regeneration of Sittingbourne.

"As well as that, it will relieve congestion and make the lives of those living in and working along the northern relief road so much better."

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RNLI

Lifeboat hero recognised for his dedication to saving lives

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT HAS been 30 years since the coxswain of the Sheerness lifeboat took the helm – he's had brushes with death more times than he can remember and saved thousands of lives, but he wouldn't change a thing.

Robin Castle, 57, has now been given a 30-year long service award.

He said: "It was at our Christmas dinner when we take the wives and families out to thank them for putting up with everything, when they gave me my badge, which was great."

He is a paid employee of the RNLI and has no intention of stepping aside any time soon.

"It's in my blood now. I could have retired at 55, but decided to stay on. I am not planning to retire any time soon," he said.

Robin has been the coxswain of the Sheerness lifeboat since December, 1981, before which he was the skipper of a Medway Port Authority patrol boat.

The RNLI crews, many of whom are volunteers, provide a maritime search and rescue service for the Kent coast from the lifeboat station.

Mr Castle, who received an MBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List in January, 2010, said: "I love this job, but it can be dangerous. The worst incident was during the great hurricane of 1987. I was presented with a bronze medal for gallantry by the RNLI for what happened that night."

"It was at about 5am and winds were in excess of 90 knots at Garrison Point."

"The coastguard at Queenborough harbour asked us to check out a report of red flares seen off Allhallows. What would have normally been a quick passage was quite time consuming because of the weather. It was very scary too."

"I had all the crew put their lifejacket lights on, and we were all clipped to the boat with lifelines, just in case. That was very unusual."



"We spotted a small craft that was being swamped. We got alongside but the men on board couldn't hear us calling to them because of the wind."

"Finally, we managed to get both off and then their boat disappeared. It was a close call."

"They had been angling and at midnight there wasn't a breath of wind. They had no idea a hurricane was on its way."

"That was a hairy one – it's a job that really stands out."

Of the changes in the service over his three decades, he said: "The biggest have been the boats we use. There have also been massive improvements in

safety and of course the training is 100 per cent better."

Of the long service award, he added: "I was overwhelmed. Of course none of my work could have been possible without the crews past, present and those no longer with us."

■ For more news and sport see www.yourswale.co.uk.

THREE DECADES: Sheerness RNLI Coxswain Robin Castle has been given a long service award

NEWS IN BRIEF

➔ Funeral for ex-marine

AROUND 600 mourners this week attended the funeral of a former Royal Marine found dead in a suspected murder on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

Carl Davies, 33, from Maidstone, who taught at the Isle of Sheppey Academy until August, was discovered in a ravine last month. He had been beaten and possibly sexually assaulted.

His funeral was held in Bobbing, near Sittingbourne.

➔ Tutor solves spy code

A PUZZLE set by GCHQ as a part of a code-cracker recruitment drive has been solved by a University of Greenwich computer lecturer at Medway.

Dr Gareth Owen spent around eight hours solving it, and his three explanation videos have been viewed more than 75,000 times on YouTube.

He said: "While the puzzle is challenging, for someone with in-depth experience in computer security it is relatively straightforward."

➔ Firemen fighting litter

A CAMPAIGN to keep Medway clean, green and safe is supported by Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

The Love Medway campaign against fly tipping and littering is backed by the fire service as part of its work in reducing deliberate and accidental outdoor fires. The cab doors of three fire trucks will bear the Love Medway logo to increase awareness of the dangers caused by dumped rubbish and litter being set alight.

EDUCATION

Fears expanding grammar schools will 'cream off' most gifted pupils

THE Government decision to stop parents objecting to Kent and Medway grammar schools from getting bigger will have no effect in the county.

That's according to Kent County Council's cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Mike Whiting.

Campaigners are worried the announcement from education secretary Michael Gove will strip them of a right to object. It is claimed some schools will be left with so few pupils as grammars cream off academically gifted students, they will be left fighting for their existence.

Mr Gove revealed the Government is scrapping restrictions on the expansion of the most popular schools.

Now those against the move said it will mean weaker schools will come under increased financial pressure as their pupil numbers dwindle.

Margaret Tulloch, secretary of the pressure group Comprehensive Future, said: "By allowing grammar schools to expand, this will allow them to cream off more of the more academic children from the non-selective schools."

"This will make it harder for [those schools] to hit [GCSE] targets, so it will be more of a struggle for them, and there will be no way they can object if another school wants to expand."

But Cllr Whiting said: "KCC will continue to ensure there are sufficient places available in

the rich and diverse mix of schools in Kent.

"The Government has cleared the way for schools of all types to expand where there is parental demand, and this will undoubtedly include both selective and non-selective provision."

"KCC will continue to monitor pupil numbers and, where necessary, support proportional expansion of schools in order to make the most of the Government's new freedoms set out in the revised School Admissions Code."

And Medway Council's portfolio holder for children's services, Cllr Les Wicks, added: "The new admissions code will give greater freedom to own admissions authority schools, such as academies, voluntary aided schools and foundation schools to increase their role, or published admissions number. However, any change to the criteria for the actual selection process will continue to require consultation."

The Government has also warned that from next year, it wants to impose a minimum standard for secondary schools to achieve 40 per cent of its pupils securing five good GCSEs, including English and maths. Those that don't could be turned in to academies.

The Department for Education said: "Ministers remain of the view that the number of places in a school are best determined by schools themselves."

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News

for more pictures and news go to www.kentnews.co.uk

Cathedral Dickens film

ROCHESTER Cathedral is hosting a screening of David Lean's 1946 classic adaptation of Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* and a BBC outside broadcast on February 10. Great, great grandchildren of Dickens will be among the guests.

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EDUCATION



HEARTFELT: Jordan Oliver read her letter to her dad Allen who is currently serving on the frontline in Afghanistan

Chorister's moving message to her Army dad hits right note at concert

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ENTIRE school was moved to tears during its choir's emotional rendition of the Military Wives' hit *Wherever You Are* which featured a special message for one pupil's father.

There wasn't a dry eye at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, when student Jordan Oliver read aloud a letter to her soldier father. Both her parents are in the military and the stress of having them on the front in Afghanistan was starting to tell on the youngster.

But she plucked up enough courage to read her letter during their version of the surprise hit song by the Military Wives Choir.

Jordan said: "I wanted to write the letter for all the men and women who are out there fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq."

The 15-year-old added: "It was also a way to get a message to my dad through YouTube."

"I thought if he could see me reading the letter rather than just getting it in the post, then it would mean more to him, and let him know that we are thinking of him even though we can't be with him this Christmas."

Her father is Sgt Allen Oliver who will be on the frontline in 2nd Battalion, the Mercian Regiment in Afghanistan this Christmas.

He has since seen the film of the performance on YouTube.

Her mother is Sgt Angela Oliver who is the in Adjutant General Corp (SPS) working with the 32 Engineer Regiment, Hohnhe. She was deployed to Afghanistan earlier this year.

Close to tears herself, Jordan reads out her letter to her father during the song.

She wrote: "Dear Daddy, I was hoping that you would get home before Christmas, but no worries. I know how important it is, your work in Afghanistan. I can't wait until I get to see you. I'm taller than Mum now! Come home. We all miss you very much. Love you and miss you millions. Dad, Jords."

Sgt Oliver has since been in touch by email with a message for Jordan saying: "Please tell her I am so proud of her."

Most of the children who attend the boarding school have parents in the Armed Forces.

After the choir's performance, headmaster Charles Johnson said: "Many of our children will be separated from parents deployed this Christ-

mas, but Jordan has been particularly courageous; both of her parents, Alan and Angela, have served in Afghanistan this year and no sooner had her mother returned than her father left for the frontline.

"Her message is heartfelt and speaks for all of us. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience when the children sang this at our winter concert."

The recording was produced by the school's choirmaster James Robinson after hearing a request from Radio 2 DJ Chris Evans for choirs across the country to send in recordings.

Their song has been played on the radio this week.

It gained more than 2,500 views and 770 'Likes' in just 24 hours and the support of the Military Wives themselves, who've posted it on their own Facebook page.

Military Wives choir member, Kerry Riva, emailed the school to lend her support, and added: "I'm one of the Military Wives and have just seen your performance of our song on YouTube."

"I cried. It's amazing to think that you wanted to do the song, and thought it was a fabulous performance - well done - you make us very proud thank you, X."

Dukie's choirmaster James Robinson added: "We hope it will get played so that it can be heard by military families across the country and the troops deployed across the world this Christmas."

The Military Wives' Choir is now officially bookies' favourite to become Christmas number one with their song being released on December 19.

■ If you want to see Jordan's moving reading, visit <http://youtu.be/YtPfHJBgBQc>.

■ For all the latest news and sport headlines go to www.yourdover.co.uk.

CHARITY

Crime pays for children's hospice

GOODS confiscated from criminals across Maidstone and Sittingbourne have been donated to a worthy cause.

Swale Neighbourhood Inspector Phill Hibben attended the Demelza children's hospice in Sittingbourne, to hand over the goodies for the charity.

Items such as toys confiscated from traders operating without a licence and compu-

ter games, DVDs and clothes were whisked away from the criminals to ensure they didn't profit from their crimes.

They were then donated to the Demelza children's hospice to spread some Christmas cheer. The items will either be used at the hospice or sold at one of the charity's shops to raise funds.

Insp Hibben said: "Items of

property come into our possession for a variety of reasons.

"While we will make every effort to return them to their rightful owners, sometimes it is not possible. It is very satisfying that these items do not go to waste and can be used to support a worthy cause."

"Demelza staff do an amazing job and I am sure they will put these items to good use."



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POLITICS

Departing KCC chief's legacy is 'disruption for very little advantage'

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE leader of the Liberal Democrat party at Kent County Council said she has many worries about the way the authority's £197,000-a-year 'boss' is suddenly leaving.

Cllr Trudy Dean is also the chairman of KCC's cabinet security committee, and vice chairman of the corporate policy overview and scrutiny committee, but even so was not party to discussions about the departure of group managing director Katherine Kerswell because she is in opposition to the ruling Tories.

She is angry the reasons and build-up to Mrs Kerswell's departure, announced last Thursday, appears to be a closely guarded secret.

Cllr Dean also wonders why her settlement, thought to be around £400,000, will be confidential until next year, and is concerned her work with the council has resulted in an "enormous amount of disruption".

In her 18 months at County Hall, Mrs Kerswell is said to have changed the entire council structure, from being "highly departmental to one based on the whole organisation working together for the people of Kent".

She is leaving at the end of the month to research better ways of making large organisations work well.

The Conservatives on the council now have the opportunity to eliminate her position completely to save money, something Cllr Dean is worried about.

Mrs Kerswell replaced Peter Gilroy who was the £250,000 a year chief executive of the council. The job name changed to group managing director with her arrival.

Cllr Dean said: "The manner of her leaving is confusing to say the least. We are told the parting of the ways has been amicable and she is just leaving to pursue other parts of her career.

"But she has not been at her desk for, I think, almost two months. There is no reason for that if it was amicable. There is no reason why she shouldn't be at her desk today.

"Also if it was amicable, then she should only be paid what she is statutorily entitled to, and not any more. That figure is secret, but I don't see any reason why it is.

"There is no reason why the figure should not be publicised. It will be published next year in the county council accounts.

"I think the restructure she has put in place is



QUIDS IN: Katherine Kerswell leaves this month

not the correct one. We opposed it at the time.

"It has resulted in an enormous amount of disruption to the county council for very little advantage. At the end of the day, we started off with five departments, and we finished up with five departments.

"We still have one of the largest central senior management teams of any authority. We still have a very high number of people who are paid more than £100,000.

"So from that point of view, I don't accept that what she has done is mind-changing.

"I think it's too early to tell if that's worked because she hasn't stuck around long enough to find out."

When asked if she was pushed or jumped, Cllr Dean said: "That's for people to make up their own mind about."

HEALTH

Cot death booze alert

"BOOZE and babies don't mix" is the festive message from the NHS.

A new campaign advises parents who have had a drink to make sure they don't fall asleep with their babies, and to ensure toddlers are supervised.

Dr Jonathan Sexton, a public health consultant from NHS Kent and Medway, said: "Alcohol can often be a contributory factor in cot death, as parents can be less aware of the baby and may unintentionally roll onto them if sharing a bed.

"We're not telling parents not to indulge over Christmas; just to remember alcohol and babies don't mix, and make sure toddlers are kept safe."

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News

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TRANSPORT

Bus service is to be extended

THE Sheppey Matters' evening minibus service, which has been operating since June, has been extended for a further six months.

The current service stops on December 23, and the new timetable will begin on January 3, after funding was secured by Cllr Ken Pugh.

Up to three return trips are provided per evening, seven days a week, linking Blue Town/Sheerness with Leysdown via Halfway, Minster, Eastchurch, Bay View and Warden.

For further information call Sheppey Matters on 01795 583547 or email enquiries@sheppeyhlc.org.uk.

UTILITIES

Leak alarm meters will save five million litres of water a day

NEW 'intelligent' water meters being installed by Kent supplier Southern Water are set to save more than five million litres of water a day by helping to pinpoint leaks on or around customers' pipes.

Between now and 2015, the company is fitting 500,000 meters for households across Kent, Hampshire, and Sussex – a region which is officially defined as 'water stressed'.

Jon Crooke of Southern Water, said: "Around 20 per cent of leaks occur on customers' pipes. The meters we are installing are the most advanced in the water industry and include a 'leak alarm' to

help more easily detect when water is escaping from household supply pipes or internal pipework. We estimate fitting meters with leak alarms across our area will save enough water to meet the needs of over 37,000 people a day. That's the same number of people as it would take to fill Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium three times over."

The metering programme was launched in late 2010 in Medway. Households in Gillingham have had meters put in recently, with work underway around Sittingbourne, and the Isle of Sheppey to follow in the coming months.

ACCIDENT

Family's loving tribute to 'cherished daughter' killed in three-car crash

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Sittingbourne family of a teenage law student who was killed in a horror car smash, have issued a loving statement as a tribute to their daughter.

April George was studying criminal justice at the Medway campus of the University of Kent.

The 19-year-old was killed in a smash on the A2 in Rainham, close to Moor Street, on Wednesday, December 7.

Her dad Steven was behind the wheel of the family Peugeot 206 as they drove home from April's grandparents.

A collision occurred and Steven suffered bleeding from his spleen and a fractured pelvis, but is battling against the injuries in hospital. His condition is said to be serious but stable.

However, April passed away in hospital the following day with her family close by.

The statement from her family read: "April, 'Ape' or 'A' as she was more commonly known as by friends and family was involved in a collision not far from her home, whilst travelling home from visiting her grandparents.

"She then tragically passed away in the early hours of the following morning whilst in hospital surrounded by her loving family.

"April was 19-year-old and although sadly she only had a short life it was a happy and fulfilled one. She went to a local primary school, followed by Fulston Manor secondary school where she was an A* student.

"April brought sunshine to every day with her bubbly personality, kind heart, beautiful smile and infectious laugh. She was an extremely popular and talented girl.

"April made friends with everybody she met and was an absolute joy to be around.



SAD LOSS: 19-year-old April George was studying criminal law

"Following school, April worked as a receptionist at Sheerness Dental Surgery before recently enrolling at Kent University to study criminal law; this was a very proud moment for April and her family.

"April was a loved and cherished daughter, sister, granddaughter, niece, cousin and most importantly, the best friend anybody could ever wish for. She will always be in our hearts, missed but never forgotten."

An inquest has been opened and adjourned. The short hearing was told April died from multiple injuries, and a full hearing will be scheduled

by the coroner at a later date.

The driver of another car involved in the three-car incident, 29-year-old Pole Mateusz Makiewicz, has been charged with causing death by careless driving.

Makiewicz, of Canterbury Road, Sittingbourne, appeared before magistrates in Chatham, and cried as the case was adjourned.

A female driver of a Citroën Picasso also involved in the accident, suffered a broken wrist, toe and a deep cut to her knee cap.

■ For all the latest news see www.yourswale.co.uk.

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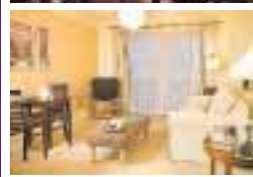
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News

KOS CAMPAIGN

Saga backing for our campaign to keep elderly warm and alive

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

KENT-BASED business Saga has put its weight behind Surviving Winter campaign.

The company that specialises in services for the over 50s decided to back the idea after last year's severe winter.

The charity drive encourages people who do not need their £200 winter fuel payment to donate it to those in need.

Ros Altmann director general of Sandgate-based Saga said: "Last year nine older people per hour were dying from the cold. I had a number of letters from pensioners who wanted to give their payment to people who really needed it to help with their heating but at that time I did not know of a mechanism to get that money to people."

With Saga's help the campaign organised by the Com-

munity Foundation Network has been able to go nationwide. In Kent the campaign, which is backed by Archant KOS Media, is organised by the Kent Community Foundation.

Ms Altmann said: "If people want to help this is a very efficient way of doing it. The Community Foundation has very low overhead costs. A lot of the work is done by volunteers and the charity uses Gift Aid to cover its admin costs."

This year the campaign hopes to raise £1m towards helping the over 60s in fuel poverty heat their homes.

Ms Altmann said: "The Community Foundation Network can identify the people in need. As we know, the winters can be very severe. It may not just be money; it may be fitting insulation, volunteering work or even buying someone a heater."

"It is all about saving lives."

This year, the number of people struggling to heat their homes looks likely to increase. There has been a cut in the winter fuel allowance and a rise in energy costs from the utility companies.

Ms Altmann said: "We are not forcing anybody to give money away. If you need it, keep it. We are just offering the people the chance to do so. Equally you do not have to be an older person to help."

The company director said Saga backed universal payment for heating in general.

She said: "Every pensioner should get heating help. Means testing costs a lot to administer. This is simpler and more successful in getting help where it is needed."

Donations can be made by visiting www.kentcf.org.uk/surviving_winter.html or see the form below.

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News



CHARITY

Doctor Who to follow on the heels of Cyberman

ONE of Doctor Who's most feared enemies paid a special visit to Tunbridge Wells last weekend – just weeks before hundreds of fans of the long-running sci-fi hit are set to descend on the town for an event dedicated to the Timelord.

The Cyberman paid a visit to the Trinity Theatre which will host the Big Blue Box, a one-day Doctor Who convention taking place next month.

The event, which includes

appearances from stars and script-writers from the popular show, takes place on Saturday, January 14, to raise funds for Compaid, a local charity working with disabled people.

Among those appearing will be actresses Louise Jameson and Susan Jameson and writer Paul Magrs.

Tickets for the event are available now and cost £25. To book see www.trinitytheatre.net or call 01892 678678.

ENTERTAINMENT

Evergreen star Will to perform at forest

CHART-TOPPER Will Young is the latest big name to confirm a headline appearance at Bedgebury next summer – following hot on the heels of a show announced last week by Brit Award winner Plan B.

The man who won X Factor forerunner Pop Idol ten years ago, will perform on June 23 at the Goudhurst forest site – just 24 hours after Plan B's show.

It forms part of the Forestry Commission Live Music programme which has previously seen the likes of Simple Minds and Erasure play amid the woodland.



POP IDOL: Will Young has signed up to sing at Bedgebury Pinetum in the summer

Tickets are on sale now, priced £35, to book see www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

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UPROAR: A councillor has apologised for comparing voters to turkeys

POLITICS

Top Tory says sorry in 'turkey' comment about voters as fury over parking fee rumbles on

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A SENIOR Tory councillor has been forced to apologise after saying putting residents' car parking permits out to public consultation would be like "asking turkeys to vote for Christmas".

His comments caused uproar among political opponents, with the leader of the local Liberal Democrats declaring them "disgraceful".

The incident occurred at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall during the latest heated debate into proposed changes to car parking charges.

At a previous meeting it had been proposed to lift the cost of hourly parking charges in many of the town centre council-run car parks.

However, no firm decision would be taken until after the moves had been put out to public consultation which

gets under way this month.

Yet plans to hike residents' parking permits from £40 to £60 were not to go to consultation and instead were rubber-stamped and will come into force next April.

Liberal Democrats have been fiercely critical of the Tory-led council's parking policy and had originally called the decision in.

That was thrown out, earlier this month, with Lib Dem leader David Neve storming out of the meeting.

But on Wednesday night, as he put pressure on the Tories to explain their reasoning behind not going to get the public's views on permit price hikes, Brian Ransley, planning and transportation portfolio holder told the full council meeting that "to go to consultation would be like asking turkeys to vote for Christmas".

Cllr Neve said: "I couldn't believe

it when he said it. It was disgraceful. There is no reason to not put the permit proposals out to consultation and for Cllr Ransley to then say that was incredible."

On Thursday a sheepish Cllr Ransley, councillor for Capel ward, added: "I apologise if any offence was caused, certainly none was intended."

The Lib Dems say during the meeting the council confirmed the cost of administering the permits cost £86. Cllr Neve suggested this would pave the way for further price hikes in the future.

He added: "It was confirmed that the cost of postage and stationary for the permits was £1.66. And that the rest of the £86 went of civil enforcement and the signing and approving of the permits and bays.

"Yet if you look at Norman Road, for example, the bays have clearly not seen a lick of paint for years. It's a disgrace."

EDUCATION

Television expert helps students to focus their interest on nature films

BBC nature cameraman Richard Taylor-Jones shared some of the tricks of the trade with MidKent College students in Maidstone.

The Deal resident – whose stunning footage is regularly screened on shows including Autumnwatch and The One Show – spoke to youngsters studying for the BTEC extended diploma in creative media production, on Wednesday.

Mr Taylor-Jones revealed how he got into the industry and what attracted him to the job, and also showed several clips of his work.

He then had the students thinking about how and why such footage was created, highlighting



the importance of sound. Course tutor Ross Buttery said: "It was great that

Richard was able to take time out of his busy schedule to talk to the students.

"Straight after the talk he was driving down to Bristol – where the BBC Natural History Unit is based – to discuss further projects he is going to be working on."

Second year student Jake Holland added: "I'm interested in becoming a wildlife cameraman so this opportunity provided me with the information I need. I also now have the contact details of the main man in the industry."

The extended diploma in creative media production – equivalent to three A-levels – covers a wide range of subjects including TV and video editing and the history of the mass media industries.

CRIME

Scrap metal crackdown

OFFICERS from Medway Council and Kent Police have visited scrap merchants during an operation against metal thefts.

The national initiative follows concerns from the Association of Chief Police Officers about the high number of reported metal thefts from homes and businesses.

Thieves have also cut off power supplies to steal cable from electricity sub stations, and they've targeted railways and telephone systems.

During the Medway operation vehicles carrying waste materials were stopped and asked to provide their waste carrying licences and transfer notes which document the origin of the waste.

RUBBISH

Festive bin collection dates

RESIDENTS in Tonbridge and Malling are being assured that disruptions to their refuse and recycling collections will be kept to an absolute minimum during the festive period.

All collections in Tonbridge and Malling, which are due up to and including Friday, December 23 will be made as usual.

In the two weeks beginning Monday December 26 and Monday, January 2, all collections will be made one day later than usual.

Collections will return to normal the week beginning Monday, January 9.

For details check the council's website at www.tbmc.gov.uk.

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News

CRIME

Father and son get 14 years for series of bank robberies

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FATHER and son family 'business' came to an abrupt end when the Sheerness pair were each locked up for 14 years for a series of robberies.

The duo planned and executed a number of cash-in-transit bank robberies in Kent and Surrey.

The raids were carried out by Peter Clarkson, 56, and his 34-year-old son Peter.

They were found guilty by a jury at Maidstone Crown Court of conspiracy to rob between July 23-September 10, 2009, Clarkson senior, of Hartlip Close, and Clarkson junior, of Mills Close, both in Sheerness, were charged following a joint investigation by the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate and Metropolitan Police.

The court was told that between July and September 2009, a total of more than £90,000 was stolen during raids at five banks.

The court heard the duo demonstrated the organised nature of their criminality, through prior planning of the assaults on security staff.

The jury was told they used violence towards

the security guards in order to steal bags of cash and then escaped in a getaway car.

The robberies took place at the NatWest in High Street, Sheerness on July 24, 2009; HSBC bank in Trinity Road, Sheerness on August 14, 2009; HSBC bank in Broadway, Bexleyheath on August 21, 2009; Lloyds TSB bank in High Street, Sidcup on September 2, 2009; and Lloyds TSB bank in London Road, Redhill on September 8, 2009.

Sentencing the pair, Judge Joy said they had clearly planned and prepared for each of the offences.

After the hearing, Det Con Dean Sycamore, from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: 'I am delighted with the sentences that have been imposed.'

"The security guards they targeted have a right to be able to go about their work without the fear of being attacked."

"Thankfully nobody was seriously injured in any of the incidents, and both father and son now face the prospect of many years behind bars to think about what it is they have done."

■ For all the very latest news and sport headlines go to www.yourswale.co.uk.



JAILED: Peter Clarkson senior and his son Peter

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News

ENTERTAINMENT

The man of many voices delays his live show in town

A LIVE show by funnyman Jon Culshaw at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells in March has been cancelled as a knock-on effect of his father passing away earlier this year.

The man of many voices was due to stage his Impressions Show on March 9.

A spokeswoman explained: "Unfortunately, during the latter part of the filming of the BBC TV shows Jon's father passed away, having been ill for some time.

"This had a fairly drastic knock on effect with Jon's future plans and in particular relating to the upcoming live Impressions Show early next year."

The show will be rescheduled.

ART

Disneyland castle is truly a work of art

IT took three weeks to build, includes over 50,000 folds of paper, deploys more than 20 origami folding techniques and comprises of pages of a holiday brochure – this is the remarkable creation designed to mark Disneyland Paris' 20th anniversary next year.

Leading paper artist Paul Jackson created the 'pop-up' castle, he said: "This is one of the most challenging and spectacular sculptures I have worked on, requiring hours of planning, days of building and the reinvention of many different folding techniques."

And after going on display at St Pancras station, the Disneyland Paris castle is now available to view at the FirstChoice store in Crayford, where it will be on display until late next year.

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HOMES

Show offers all you could need to know to prepare for your escape to France

FRANCE is now the most popular destination for those looking to buy abroad, and proximity is one of the key factors.

According to the UK Second Homes Abroad Spotlight, published by Savills International and HomeAway.co.uk, France has ended Spain's reign as Brits' preferred overseas destination. This is due to the stability of the French market and the less dramatic drop in house values, compared with those seen in other overseas property hotspots.

And proximity to the UK was also crucial for buyers. Indeed, popping over to France is easier than heading to parts of the UK.

Just a short hop across the Channel, France is closer than we think. For example, it is a 356-mile drive from Canterbury to Rennes, in that perennial British favourite of Brittany. You can be there in just under seven hours (including ferry time). To drive from Canterbury to Glasgow, meanwhile, is 468 miles.

Similarly, Bayeux in Normandy from Maidstone is just 287 miles and under six hours by car, roughly the same distance to Liverpool.

Prices are also a tempting proposition across the Channel. The national average resale home price in France is €165,000. That works out at £139,913 (where £1 would get you €1.1793), which is just over half the average Kent property price of £278,319 (source: www.home.co.uk).

So, you're tempted to embark



upon your own French adventure, the best place to start is next month's The France Show. Taking place at Earls Court from the January 13-15, it is the big event for lovers of all things French.

Visitors can walk around a French market that evokes the bustling ambience of the real thing, sampling authentic delights such as Alpine cheeses and delectable saucisson. There are also wine theatres, language theatres and the French Property Exhibition, which has a huge selection to browse.

There will be lots of agents who deal exclusively with the French property market, too.

So, if you harbour a dream of buying your own place in France, this is a great opportunity to draw on the expertise and experience of these property professionals and have face-to-face talks with them.

You can also talk to other experts in the field of property buying and living in France, whose knowledge spans subjects such as tax and finance, currency and legal.

Or attend the comprehensive series of seminars running over the

weekend, where professionals will share their knowledge of buying and living in France.

For more details and to book tickets, visit www.thefrancheshow.com.



EXPERTS: A number of French property agents will be at the show

ENTERTAINMENT

Jools to bring special guest for castle show

JOOLS Holland will be back at Rochester Castle – along with a special guest – after being confirmed as one of the headline acts for next year's Castle Concerts series.

The musician will be joined by a big name performer, who organisers are keeping under wraps, on Wednesday July 18. Previous stars have included Lulu, Marc Almond, Ruby Turner, and ABC's Martin Fry.

The other confirmed headliner so far are the Royal Philharmonic Concerts Orchestra, who return with the Castle Proms on Saturday, July 21.

The full line-up of acts for the series of concerts, which regularly pull in more than 200,000 people, is due to be confirmed in the new year.

Over the past three years the likes of Squeeze, Peter Andre, N-Dubz, Status Quo, Will Young, McFly, The Saturdays, Diversity, The Wanted, and DJ Ironik have performed.

Tickets cost £35 for Jools Holland and His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra, while the Castle Proms are £30.

CARE HOMES

Southern Cross takeover welcomed

SITTINGBOURNE and Sheppey Tory MP Gordon Henderson has welcomed the takeover of Southern Cross care homes following its collapse in July. All

care homes formerly run by Southern Cross have now transferred to new operators. About a third of them, including Elvy Court in Sittingbourne, are to

be run by HC-One. He said: "I would like to congratulate all those involved for the way in which it has taken place without undue disruption."

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News

for more pictures and news go to www.kentnews.co.uk

CRIME

Charge in van probe

A 23-YEAR-OLD man appeared before magistrates on Thursday after being charged following the theft of a van in Pembury on Wednesday.

Ashley Whittaker, of Arundel Road, Dartford, was arrested on the A21 as police investigated claims a delivery van had been stolen.

He was charged with robbery, dangerous driving, taking a vehicle without consent and driving without insurance.

ROADS

Road closure warning

MOTORISTS are being warned of disruption in Rochester next week due to a road closure.

King Edward Road will be shut to through traffic from 7am-7pm daily, from Tuesday to allow emergency drainage repairs. It is hoped the work will be complete within three days.

Medway Council's contractor will try to maintain local access, however this may be subject to delay at certain periods.

CHRISTMAS

Santa waiting for gifts

A GREEN Santa sleigh will be making its way to a Maidstone shopping centre in the new year to collect any unwanted Christmas presents.

The gifts donated will be put to good use in a joint venture between Maidstone Borough Council and Age UK.

The sleigh will be on the second floor of The Mall, Chequers, from January 9-13.

MISSING PERSON

Lost 82-year-old driver finally found safe after 30-hour ordeal on M25

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

IT WAS supposed to be an hour long journey to see his grand child. But an 82-year-old man spent more than 30 hours on the M25 after getting lost.

Dennis Leighton had left his home at 7.30pm in Windsor, Berkshire, on Monday night to make the one-hour trip to Swanley to see his daughter Hazel and his grandson who was born in June.

It was a journey he had made a number of times.

Yet when he did not arrive, his worried daughter rang the police and reported him as missing – sparking an alert and public appeal for information.

Police kicked down the door of his home in case he had not left the property, but could find no trace.

Then his silver Vauxhall estate was spotted on Tuesday morning in Dartford – just six miles from his destination.

His details were then circulated to the local media who publicised his disappearance.

But on Wednesday morning, his car was picked up by an automatic number plate recognition camera in south London and police intercepted.

A spokesman for the police said: "He was found safe and well in the early hours – he had got a little lost.

"He had been driving around, predominantly on the M25, in the south of the country, but had also pulled off on some A-roads in the area.

"We believe he also stopped at a service station to catch up on some much-needed sleep before setting off again."

Mr Deighton, described by neighbours as "a lovely man" was treated in hospital after his ordeal for hypothermia.

It follows a similar incident last December when a 72-year-old grandfather spent three days driving around the M4 motorway after dropping his wife off at Gatwick Airport and then getting confused, amid heavy snow, as he tried to make his way home to Wiltshire.

Mohammed Bellazrak went missing on December 23 before finally being flagged down by police on Christmas Day after his car was picked up on a police camera.



JOURNEY'S END: Grandfather Dennis Leighton finally got to see his new grandson after epic drive

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News

EDUCATION

£1,000 knocked off degree cost dismissed as 'con trick'

By Marijke Cox

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A KENT university is one of 25 to have been granted permission to change its fee package just a week before the application deadline.

Canterbury Christ Church University was given approval by the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) to offer a reduction in fees for a larger number of prospective students.

Earlier this year, the university announced plans to increase its fees to £8,500 a year following the decision by the Government to allow institutions to raise their charges to as much as £9,000 from 2012.

But in a last-minute tweak to its bursary packages, the university sought approval from OFFA to increase its fee-waivers – a reduction in fees – allowing more students to pay the lower amount of £7,500 or less.

Universities were allowed to change their packages due to a late announcement of new expansion rules by the Govern-



CHEAPER: Canterbury Christ Church University will charge some students £7,500 or less

ment, where number controls for 2012-13 were revised.

OFFA said the 25 institutions to make 11th-hour changes had done so in order to bid for a share of 20,000 extra university places, which were set aside for those charging an average fee of £7,500 or less, taking into account fee-waivers.

Professor Sue Piotrowski, pro-vice chancellor (academic) for the university, said: "We have not changed or lowered our fees from our original announcement of £8,500.

"However, by amending what we can offer in financial help via an increase in fee-waivers, more prospective stu-

dents could be paying £7,500 or less to study here."

But the National Union of Students (NUS) accused institutions of moving money from bursaries, where students see the money go into their pocket.

NUS president Liam Burns said: "Fee-waivers are a con trick that will only benefit graduates earning enough to pay off their student loans within 30 years. They help the Treasury, who have to spend less on loans, but are of no benefit to students whatsoever."

But a spokeswoman at Canterbury Christ Church University said fee-waivers and bursaries were two different things and the change would not impact bursaries.

Universities submitted plans for tuition fees, bursaries and fee-waivers in April, but new measures in the Higher Education White Paper – believed to have been sparked by the high number of institutions charging the maximum £9,000 – meant universities were able to seek last-minute changes.

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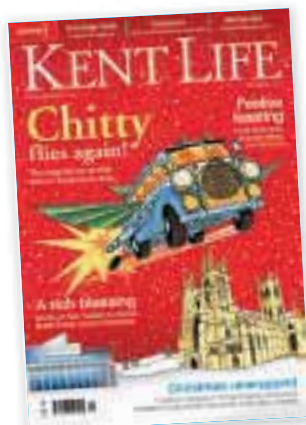
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News

HEALTH

Doctor's plea for pregnant women to get the flu jab as mother and baby almost die

By Marijke Cox

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs are urging pregnant women to have their winter flu jabs after it emerged four out of five mums-to-be had ignored advice.

NHS Kent and Medway said it was concerned after the latest figures revealed that in east Kent, those at high risk had failed to get vaccinated.

Two out of three younger at-risk patients, such as asthma sufferers and people with diabetes, have not had a jab. Worriingly, 80 per cent of pregnant women have also ignored advice from health trusts.

Enda Bashford, from Rochester, almost died along with her unborn baby earlier this year after catching flu while pregnant with her third child.

The 27-year-old is now fronting an NHS Kent and Medway campaign to encourage all mums-to-be to get vaccinated.



BE SAFE: Pregnant women are urged to take up the flu jab

"I saw that pregnant women should be vaccinated and I definitely meant to go – I took my older sons for their swine flu vaccine the year before – but I fell ill before I got round to making the appointment," she said. "You don't think it will ever happen to you but it did."

Husband Rob added: "I want all pregnant women and other people who should get the flu vaccine to have it. If someone in your family isn't having the vaccine, make sure they do."

Most at risk of flu are all people aged over six months who

have a serious long-term condition, such as asthma or diabetes, all pregnant women and everyone aged over 65. They are all eligible for a free flu jab.

Director of public health improvement for Kent, Dr Declan O'Neill, said: "We think of flu as inconvenient, but anyone who has had it will tell you it's more than that."

"More than 600 people in the UK are known to have died as a result of flu last year, including nine pregnant women."

"Women can be given the flu vaccine at any stage of their pregnancy and there is no risk to mum or baby. They will also pass antibodies to their babies, which protect the baby during its first six months, when the flu vaccine cannot be given."

"I would urge everyone who is eligible for a flu jab to contact their GP practice to fix a time for their vaccination."

■ **For the latest news see www.yourmedway.co.uk.**

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News

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CRIME

Forged £20 warning

KENT Police are warning people to be on the look out for fake £20 notes following a spate of incidents in Thanet and Canterbury where people have tried to use fake notes to pay for goods.

So far more than £3,000 worth of fake £20s have been handed in to police by businesses and individuals. A good condition note should be slightly rough and not waxy, limp or shiny.

EDUCATION

County Hall pressures Gove to make education funding fairer to poorest

By Ed Hill

ed.hill@archant.co.uk

KENT County Council is demanding the Government change the "far from perfect" funding system for education.

A letter sent to Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove says the current system does not meet the specific needs of pupils in each education authority.

It has been signed by 24 of the lowest education funded local authorities in the country, and comes after the Government finished a three-month consultation on school funding in October.

The consultation said there is an opportunity to improve the situation between the 'haves and have nots' in the state education system.

The letter is part of the F40 campaign, a group of local authorities lobbying for fairer education funding.

It was signed by KCC's cabinet member for education, learning and skills, Cllr Mike Whiting.

He said: "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the Government to undertake bold reform to school funding that will make a real difference to the education of children in Kent, and the other authorities represented in the

letter. We feel the current system uses unreliable data and needs to be revisited."

The F40 campaign says the present system uses old data based on league tables which does not take into account the differences between rural, urban and inner London education authorities.

Cllr Whiting said: "We welcome the huge amounts of extra money allocated to education by the Coalition government; however, we believe that the underlying funding formula is still far from perfect."

The campaign group says the current system has led to the funding gap between higher and lower funded councils getting larger and disadvantaging children.

It also criticises the Government's latest policy, the Pupil Premium, designed to target children from disadvantaged families. It says it will not create the shift in funding required to fundamentally change the position of the poorest funded authorities and schools.

The group says it has concerns about the use of free school meals as the only indicator for targeting the Pupil Premium because there is a relatively low take-up of the meals in rural areas, and it does not necessarily reflect the poverty of some families.



MONEY MAN: Education secretary Michael Gove

Cllr Whiting added: "We welcome the Government's commitment to change the funding system and making it fairer, and support a greater emphasis on a basic per pupil funding entitlement for all pupils based upon a clear assessment of need to break down disparities."

The Government has said that it does intend to reform education funding based on a national formula that will allocate money more consistently across the country, but it hasn't promised any more money.

Sarah Healey, director of funding at the department for education speaking to the F40 group, said: "The Government has made clear the current funding system is neither fair nor transparent."

"However, these are times of limited resources. This change is about getting the system right; not about getting more money into it."

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KENT REMEMBERED

Turn the pages of history to learn about life among the Victorian upper class

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE life of a Victorian upper-class lady who lived to be 101 years old is the subject of a new book which sheds light on life in the county in the 19th century.

Historian Helen Allinson of Sittingbourne has edited and transcribed a set of original diaries which are now published entitled *The Journal of a Victorian Lady: Louisa Thomas of Hollingbourne*.

"I have resolved to write all that befalls me with the greatest exactness," reads the first diary entry of Louisa Thomas when she was aged 16.

Helen said: "When I compiled a history of the village of Hollingbourne I became aware of the diaries and managed to track them down."

"I felt they would be important and shed a lot of light on the lives of people of a certain class at that time in history."

"I found the whole process of transcribing and editing the diaries a once in a lifetime privilege and pleasure."

Louisa was born in 1810 and faithfully wrote a journal for most of her long life, which was at the height of the Victorian age of Empire when Britain's influence spanned the world.

She was an energetic, cultured woman who came from an unusual family; her father was a wealthy man and her mother was of Huguenot descent.

The diaries reveal her as a girl in Paris, a spinster in Brighton and on her six-month honeymoon tour of Europe. It records her attending election processions in nearby Maidstone, and describes the excitement of regular trips to London to visit aunts and uncles in their grand homes at Regents Park and to Brighton to see new exhibitions and events.

But it is the day-to-day accounts of life in a Kentish village which form the majority of the work.

Louisa and husband Richard had six children whose lives took them out into the Empire.

Prominent people of the day whom Louisa knew included Alfred Lord Tennyson, one of the most famous poets of the age. Another friend was Charles Kean, an actor famous for lavish Shakespearean productions.

The work is an important one as the majority of the first-hand descriptions of life in Victorian



VILLAGE HISTORY: Louisa Thomas, (above) aged 100, wrote diaries most of her life. Historian Helen Allinson (left) has now had them published

"Her life was clearly among the upper classes, she knew all the important county families of the time, although she was probably more intellectual than most, with a good command of French."

"We can see how hers was a life that encompassed the horse-drawn carriage era to the motor car, in the 'upstairs-downstairs' era of footmen, cooks, housemaids, skivvies, gardeners and farm labourers."

"Louisa was both the benevolent mistress and one who could send a pregnant maid to the dreaded workhouse."

■ On November 20 we published a picture of a plaque commemorating the bombing of Sturry in November, 1941. It should have been credited to Pauline Louch. The photo is featured in the 2012 calendar sold to raise funds for Friends of St Nicholas Church, Sturry. It costs £6 and is available from Sturry Parish Council Offices, High Street, Sturry.

times are the accounts of soldiers, explorers or statesmen. Not so much exists of this sort of social history said Helen, who has written extensively on the history of Kent and its villages.

"I have written an introduction to each of the decades which the diary covers but it is all Louisa's words, so it really is history told at first hand," said Helen. "We hear of the excitement of her first train ride, the arrival of the Penny Post, Tennyson coming to dinner and how she deals with servants."

"There are also accounts of crime in the area, including robberies in other homes."

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OPINION

Delivering better policing

Medway's portfolio holder for community safety, Cllr Mike O'Brien, is looking forward to the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner

NOVEMBER 15, 2012, will be a significant turning point in the history of the police service.

For the first time, residents across Kent and Medway will be asked to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to represent our interests.

The PCC will ensure public concerns are reflected in local policing priorities. Having a recognisable, directly-elected commissioner will empower the public and increase local accountability. But what will this mean in practice?

Currently, responsibility for policing is shared between the chief constable, the Home Secretary and the police authority.

Under the new system, the Home Office will withdraw from day-to-day police matters and instead of the current 'invisible' police authority an elected and mandated commissioner will set goals and priorities for our police force, enacted through

the chief constable, according to the wishes of the public – a public the PCC will be accountable at the polling station.

There will be much debate during the next 12 months over what these priorities should be.

As the portfolio holder for community safety in Medway, here are some of the issues that I would like our commissioner to consider...

While crime has fallen, there are concerns about serious crime and many are still worried about anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods. This should be a major priority and, in conjunction with Community Safety Partnerships, the PCC can reduce this blight on people's lives.

The commissioner should make it clear what we can expect from a 21st century police force. For example, residents deserve clear minimum response times when they con-

tact the police and for the results of investigations.

The PCC will be responsible for the enhancement of criminal justice delivery and community sentences need to be viewed as effective punishment.

In partnership with courts, the commissioner can work to speed up the process, so those given a punishment in the morning are doing that work in the community by the afternoon.

More emphasis must be given to the victims of crime, and we must drive down reoffending rates, which are still unsatisfactorily high compared to the rest of the country.

Residents also want visible policing. I would like to see greater community involvement, with the introduction of incentives for residents to volunteer as special constables.

All of this needs to be delivered while being mindful of the financial constraints that we



6699

The PCC will be held to account at the polling station

all work within, keeping precept increases to a minimum.

Some have criticised commissioners because they believe it will politicise the police and cost too much. The police will continue to be operationally independent. They are there to protect the public and should not have political affiliation to any party – this will not change.

In fact, chief constables will have greater professional freedom to take operational decisions to meet the priorities set for them by their community – via their commissioner.

While there is a cost with any change, let's remember that police authorities cost the taxpayer £65 million per year and have spent £25m on expenses and allowances in the last three years.

The commissioner will be the driving force for our local policing priorities and will be good for Kent and Medway.

KOS COMMENT

We haven't all got a Turner or a Dickens

MARY Portas has moved on from telling charity-shop-owners how to sell second-hand clothes, to holding forth about the country's town centres.

As part of her research she toured Margate's Old Town to see what lessons could be learned. She praised the new Turner Contemporary gallery for attracting visitors back to the sadly-jaded resort.

The problem is that not every town can rely on a multi-million-pound attraction, paid for by the taxpayer, to bring back the punters.

She has ideas that might just work for towns like Sittingbourne or Herne Bay; what is needed now is the political will to follow her suggestions through.

Name your price

A LONG-lost Velazquez painting found in Whitstable has sold for £3 million at a London auction. At first it was valued at about £300.

Instead of the months of research to confirm its authenticity, the painter should have just scribbled his name in the corner and saved everyone a lot of bother.



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Airport would ruin our lives

WHY do some people persist with the idea that Manston can solve the apparent need for extra airport capacity in the South East... can they not see the blight this would bring to the area?

Don't believe the suggestion that no-one will be affected if take-off and landing is largely over water. Aircraft movements every few minutes, day and night would simply be intolerable. Nose-to-tail traffic from the eastern tip of Kent up to the M25 and beyond isn't anything to look forward to.

There is a misunderstanding the high-speed rail link could adequately serve the airport. Since its introduction, it has inconvenienced north Kent commuters. The existing lines simply do not have the necessary capacity to cope.

Other ideas for a new airport in the Estuary would be even

more destructive as great swathes of countryside would need to be ripped up to provide the necessary infrastructure.

The benefits? Some jobs. Never to be sniffed at, but is the quality of life cost worth it?

Tourism? Who seriously believes people would travel thousands of miles from wherever and spend their time and money in sunny Kent?

What made a third runway at Heathrow such a non-starter all of a sudden?

The moratorium on another runway at Gatwick ends in 2019... plenty of time to get it ready. Stanstead could easily expand and Birmingham – which with HS2 would be close enough to London – actually wants to expand.

Let's not sit back and wait to be overtaken by events.

Bill Stevens, Faversham

Pop goes the alternatives

WHILE I respect the views of

others and have no great reason to support the fizzy drink manufacturers whether UK-owned or foreign. I really must take issue with your contributor Roger Arnold (Letters, December 11).

He berates these companies for wasting water. Think about it. Are not most of the alternatives also made up largely of water?

Tony Burgess, Tunbridge Wells

We'll prosper outside of EU

I AM old enough to have voted in the 1970s referendum on joining the (then) Common Market. I voted against that and have never changed my stance.

Prime Minister Ted Heath's propaganda spoke about our trucks, full of exports, going to the six Common Market countries.

He deliberately failed to mention the fact that six Euro trucks would be coming our

way in return for every one of ours.

Just look at the M20 any day and play the 'spot the UK truck' game.

The result was the ruination of our fishing industry, car industry, white goods industry and the near ruination of our farming industry due to the dreadful 'common agricultural policy'. Great stuff!

Our government, of whatever hue, keeps telling us if we quit the EU we would suffer because the EU is our major trader. The fact is we have had a trade deficit with the remainder of the EU ever since.

If (or when) we quit the EU, those other members will still want us to buy their goods, but we will have more control over what we buy and sell in order to reduce the trade deficit.

We would prosper outside of this terrible club. We must quit now... but the Government will not listen to the people.

Cllr Terry Mullan, Shepway District Council

Greens boring me on fracking

I'M pleased Kent County Council have had the wisdom to approve the trial boring for shale gas in east Kent.

I recently attended an address on this subject from prominent science writer Matt Ridley, something of an expert on shale gas, and managed a few words with him afterwards about east Kent. As a result feel able to contribute to the ongoing debate.

Small scale shale gas extraction started in America way back in the 40s, but was only been taken up on a larger scale in the 90s. Shale gas exists usually at a depth of 5,000-15,000 ft.

Coal-bed methane is gas trapped in coal; seams that can be tapped by similar methods. A vertical small shaft is drilled down into the shale rock and then a horizontal shaft. This is used for the crack-

ing. Water, sand and some chemicals are pumped through small holes in the horizontal shaft to fracture the rock and release the gas. The water returns to the surface and can be reused or desalinated and disposed of – so there is no overall water depletion.

Then the gas simply comes to the surface – for years.

Although we don't know for certain, indications are there's sufficient deposits to keep us going for at decades, maybe centuries.

This could be the answer to our 'energy gap'.

So why the fuss and scaremongering? The Greens have four main objections:

1) That we may pollute the water supply – extremely unlikely as the gas extraction takes place way below aquifer level. The only danger would be a leak from the pipe as it passed through the aquifer. The pipes are encased in concrete and steel – how much would be determined by regulation.

2) That fracking uses a secret mix of toxic chemicals – it's no longer secret, the chemicals are a very diluted form of stuff found under any kitchen sink, are unlikely to leak and would pose little risk even if they did.

3) That gas or methane will escape and has been seen to make tap water flammable – methane and other gas can and does 'escape' naturally into aquifers, a well-known phenomenon, not the result of gas production.

4) That earthquakes may be caused – there is a tiny risk of tremors from any form of mining or tunnelling, but the possibility of a link with fracking in Lancashire was something of a one-off in special geologic circumstances, and pretty well a 'first' in years of gas extraction.

Even better, gas from coal does not always need to be fracked at high pressure, and I need not remind that east Kent sits on a coalfield, meaning the chances of a good supply are quite high.

Personally I'm getting fed up with continually being preached at by the Greens, who seem to be intent on the destruction of our way of life by opposing every practical and affordable means of power generation.

I'm for shale and coal gas – and for the longer term? Well, for power generation I would suggest looking at nuclear.

Ian Taylor, Dover

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Editor: Ian Patel
Address: Apple Barn, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS
Editorial:
Telephone 01303 817100;
Fax 01303 817002;
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Telephone 01303 817150;
Fax 01303 817001;
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ANITA 58, 5ft 3ins, Auburn hair, green eyes, likes swimming, bowling, shows, holidays, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387416**

KATH slim, petite size 10, hardworking attractive, OHAC, seeking loving romantic guy to enjoy cosy nights in cuddling up with a dvd and glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381729**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**
HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

KERRY 31 outgoing confident with laid back attitude, looking for relaxed relationship with tactile male, any age/looks/size or status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381697**

TARA 5ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-voo! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

CHERYL young 54, attractive, petite, brunette, slim, likes most things, easygoing, looking for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380141**

MARIE solvent, independent, likes meals out, good things in life, GSOH, love pets/children, seeks honest, affectionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388574**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional male, 60's for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379891**

MARIA 47, curly blonde hair, 5ft 8ins, size 14, GSOH, likes reading, walks, WLTm kind, friendly, fun loving gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380509**

SUSAN 53, 5ft 3ins, slim, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, looking for male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380317**

GWEN lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTm male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443**

DEBBIE dark haired passionate classy, discreet female looking for professional intelligent male wanting mutual companionship. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380441**

DEBORAH 38 missing that special someone in my life. Call me, even if you're not the one I guarantee we will still have loads of fun! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380439**

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465**

LADY late 50's, new to area, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378403**

WANNA spend Chrimbo with a big busty bimbo? Tracy separated and looking for Mr Funt! Come on you have to lose. Call me. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380009**

SHIRLEY young looking tall attractive fit female, OHAC, open-minded, varied interests seeks tall male for genuine dates. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380005**

BLACK female, 35, GSOH, caring, loving, kind, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376611**

CLAIRE 38 blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, curvy, looking for professional gent up to 50yrs LTR. Call me to meet up for a casual drink and chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380881**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

JACQUELINE 49, medium build, brown hair, likes animals, nights in/out, coastal walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381439**

JAYNE tall blonde, blue eyes, attractive, OHAC, no ties, enjoys nights out, romantic nights in, WLTm male up to 55yrs for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381365**

EMMIE 28yr old lonely single mum all out of love, looking for good company with male who can tame a confident beautiful sensual lady. Any looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381363**

NINA black beauty, classy 21, loves to have lots of fun, seeks older man who is willing to come up with a few new ideas for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381361**

KATH 41 slim size 10, attractive and hardworking, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks cuddly romantic guy for tic and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381339**

TANYA attractive, fit, slim, fun, all a hot blooded male wants! Now I have your attention, 37yr single female looking for the real deal. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381335**

CHRISTMAS special! Tia shy pretty female 39, seeks outgoing man to coax me out of my shell, for good times and old langsyne. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381333**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

AUDREY recently widowed, seeks lonely gent for friendship and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381213**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to lose? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

LISA sexy blonde 31yrs, extremely fit and outgoing, seeking male for casual friendship with benefits. Discretion assured. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380879**

TRISH tall slim brunette, honest, reliable, affectionate, OHAC, no ties, outgoing, loves Indian food, seeking male 39-50yrs for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380877**

CAROL attractive lady of leisure, solvent, OHAC, WLTm sincere gent willing to entertain and share all of life's naughty indulgences with me. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380857**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meetings, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

HELEN 34, lonely single mum of one, slim, attractive, tall, WLTm male for friendship maybe developing into something more later. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378007**

RACHEL blonde brown eyed slim but feminine female, 32, likes winning/dining, theatre, WLTm reliable male for dinner dates and romancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377531**

CARMEL blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001**

HANNAH 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977**

SAM 35, green eyed voluptuous, busy, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTm older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975**

MEL tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971**

LOOKING for a nice soul mate, diners, drinks, walks, someone who enjoys life, I am optimistic, happy, fun, cuddly, slim, red hair, enjoy good food, working out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379865**

YOUNG free single female, seeks male for nights in/out, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388484**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTm male for adult fun. ACA can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

FOLKESTONE lady 57, likes animals, walks, drinks, good food, passionate, seeks likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375927**

SUSIE seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

CHRIS new to area, late 50's, slim, 5ft 5ins, fair hair, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378725**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

LYN 58, likes meals out, cinema, holidays, coast, theatre, shows, countryside, pubs, N/S, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376187**

CARRIE 28yr old Christmas cracker, seeking easygoing confident character to pull me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380855**

SUE long blonde haired slim but curvy pretty female, loves to live life to the full, good wine, shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional OHAC, WLTm male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378007**

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTm him. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hang-ups, WLTm outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**

REBECCA brown hair/eyes, medium build, shy, likes animals, N/S, likes cosy nights in, walks, gardening, cuddles, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375995**

JACQUELINE 48, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks male, 40-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370747**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, my selflooks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159**

TALL slim, blonde female, kind, caring, honest, seeks older male, 78 plus to treat me well. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378233**

LIFE is too short to live it alone! Eee, attractive blonde blue eyed bubbly lady looking for similar genuine tactile person for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378011**

TAMMY young 31yr old good looking brunette with no ties, seeking fun romantic guy for meals out, cosy nights in and more. No time wasters pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378009**

PAT 70's, 5ft, cuddly, seeks male for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369521**

JACKIE 48, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes animals, nights in/out, walks, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more, preferably a smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 368039**

STUNNING blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTm uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTm older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70's for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slimmish, curvy lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757**

SOCIABLE cuddly 70's lady, GSOH, N/S, likes cinema, days out, coast, seeks genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369297**

I'M Gorgeous, lively seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, good times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

TRISHA teacher, blonde, attractive, uncomplicated, undemanding, non materialist, well travelled, likes reading, walking, laughing, seeks tall, professional man, 60ish for simple joys. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375741**

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611**

GENUINE honest, curvy lady modern, smart, friendly, seeking genuine gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376275**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

Men Seeking

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ROMANTIC loving male, thoughtful caring, seeks similar female for LTR, outdoors, country pubs and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381191**

MARK 62, reliable, trustworthy, varied interests, seeks understanding, romantic lady, 47-67 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379809**

BILL late 50's, likes good wine, nights out, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380953**

TALL dark handsome male, 46, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388512**

JIM 50, genuine, honest, kind, seeks female with similar values for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379659**

JOHN 61, reliable, tactile, understanding, varied interests, seeks romantic, down to earth, understanding, cuddly lady, 55-67. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379645**

PHILIP young 58, looking for N/S romantic, beautiful lady, under 50, any race for excitement, love, romance. Own home in France and England, love food and much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379631**

MALE 58, widow, 5ft 8ins, cuddly, blue eyes, seeks female for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388448**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, likes Paul looking for someone for fun, holidays, cinema, countryside, meals out, walks, seeks genuine female for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379313**



SLIM

attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTm romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

GRAHAM 51, stocky, tanned, OHAC, likes a laugh, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382151**

PAUL 42, 6ft, dark hair/eyes, seeks younger female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381191**

MARK 62, reliable, trustworthy, varied interests, seeks understanding, romantic lady, 47-67 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379809**

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TALL dark handsome male, 46, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388512**

JIM 50, genuine, honest, kind, seeks female with similar values for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379659**

JOHN 61, reliable, tactile, understanding, varied interests, seeks romantic, down to earth, understanding, cuddly lady, 55-67. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379645**

PHILIP young 58, looking for N/S romantic, beautiful lady, under 50, any race for excitement, love, romance. Own home in France and England, love food and much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379631**

MALE 58, widow, 5ft 8ins, cuddly, blue eyes, seeks female for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388448**

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, slim-medium build, likes Paul looking for someone for fun, holidays, cinema, countryside, meals out, walks, seeks genuine female for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379313**

SLIM

attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571**

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

ATTRACTIVE and any man's dream seeks, outgoing, professional male for evenings in and fun nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366703**

CUTE very curvy young girl, 18, WLTm romantic guy for lots of fun and loving. Looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366699**

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Business Week

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Our natural resources won't last for ever, Chancellor told

THE Autumn Statement from Chancellor George Osborne has sparked widespread alarm that the Coalition Government is preparing to sacrifice the country's natural environment and quality of life on the altar of economic development.

Many commentators have interpreted Osborne's comments regarding increased airport capacity as his warming to the idea of a massive new airport on the north Kent coast.

Such a scheme would be potentially environmentally devastating to the county's landscape and wildlife alike, while also bringing unprecedented levels of air and noise pollution.

Jamie Weir, spokesman for Protect Kent, the county arm of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said: "The sentence in the statement regarding a new hub airport in the South East is a real body-blow to all campaigners like ourselves who have been working hard to ensure that a madcap scheme such as the estuary airport never comes to fruition.



THINK! Countryside campaigners are calling for a long-term view to development

"We hope the Chancellor and Prime Minister reconsider their ideas, especially in light of the country's carbon-reduction targets."

CPRE Protect Kent is also worried by Osborne's thoughts on road-building and huge infrastructure projects.

"We utterly fail to see how laying tarmac, which will likely lead to out-of-town shopping centres, is going to regenerate the economy in any kind of sustainable manner. It is extremely wor-

rying to see this kind of short-term thinking. We have been fighting a new lower Thames crossing for many years and it is worrying that the Government appear to be committing themselves to this before any kind of detailed plans have undergone any kind of consultation.

"This particular road-building scheme would be likely to have a devastating impact on the environment."

Kent Wildlife Trust has also attacked the Autumn Statement over plans to

review legislation that protects important wildlife sites in England.

"It seems the Chancellor is not content with the massive shake-up of the planning system that is already under way. Now sites and species of European importance face an uncertain future in England. When will the Government recognise that our natural resources are finite?" said Wildlife Trusts chief executive Stephanie Hilborne.

"The Wildlife Trusts are well known for taking a pragmatic and constructive stance in dealings with developers and local authorities on the ground and with the Government. Now we have lost patience with the Treasury.

"The wrong outcome from this review risks driving a wedge between developers and conservationists at a time when we ought to be cooperating more than ever.

"In recession we should look to the long term. The coalition government during the Second World War placed nature at the centre of post-war reconstruction."

The shoe fits in royal town's new store

WITH Christmas almost upon us, one high-end shoe retailer has joined the party by opening a store in Tunbridge Wells.

The new outlet in Royal Victoria Place is further evidence that Ecco, one of Europe's foremost producers of quality footwear, is refusing to be deterred by the economic doom-mongers and embracing a policy of genuine expansion.

In September it relocated its store in Canterbury; last month it opened in Bath; at the start of December a presence was established in Salisbury; and on Friday last week Ecco arrived in Tunbridge Wells – to delight of the more discerning shoppers of west Kent.

Now with 25 stores across

the country, Ecco is keen on making itself known in a big way.

The company's Michelle Calcraft told Archant KOS Media at the store opening: "We're getting the brand name more recognised in the New Year. There are a lot of shops that sell Ecco, but they are only able to show a small range of what we do."

With Ecco – a Danish, family-owned company founded in 1963 – operating an ever growing number of shops, it is able to display much more of what it produces. Indeed, only Ecco models are stocked in the stores.

The emphasis is on comfort, although this is not achieved at the expense of style.

"Our shoes are just so comfortable," said Calcraft. "The moulded sole units are flexible – like a footprint in the sand.

"There is a seal around the sole and the shoes are watertight and shock-absorbent. The full-grain leather is fully pigmented, so it doesn't stain or scar easily."

The Ecco spectrum is broad, with pretty much everything from hiking boots through to more fashionable footwear available.

The investment in Tunbridge Wells is also resulting in the creation of eight or nine jobs. And with the store staying open until 9pm in the week leading up to Christmas, it seems everyone in the area has reason to be cheerful.



TRY IT ON: The new branch of Ecco has opened in Tunbridge Wells

College is helping you learn to develop your grand designs

ANYONE who would like to follow in the footsteps of Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen or Linda Barker can now take the opportunity to study at MidKent College, which will be holding new short evening courses in interior design.

Starting in January, the first 10-week

course is aimed at beginners who will study towards a City and Guilds Award in interior design (bedroom and bathroom). Those who successfully complete the course can then progress to a further 10-week course on the design of lounges and office space.

MidKent College lecturer Ellie Bentley said: "The courses will be fun and very hands-on.

"They are for anyone interested in interior design, whether you're a budding professional designer or someone who just wants some

creative ideas for your bedroom."

The courses will be run by the decorative occupations team at MidKent College's Maidstone campus.

For more details, phone 01622 624905 or email elaine.bentley@midkent.ac.uk.

Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Trainees go wild for conservation

FOUR trainees will learn wildlife and conservation skills thanks to a £150,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery fund under its Skills for the Future programme.

The grant has been awarded to the Wildwood Trust at Herne Common, Herne Bay – 38 acres of ancient woodland used to save native and once native wildlife from extinction.

During the three-year project each trainee will receive a bursary of £10,000 for the year they train with Wildwood.

By the end of the project, Wildwood will have provided training for three trainee rangers, three trainee keepers, three conservation trainees, and three trainee education officers.

Successful candidates will have to complete a portfolio of evidence of the skills they have learned. The training will provide the groundwork and experience required for those considering either further academic training or developing their career by joining a zoo, wildlife trust or other conservation organisation.

Further details about the training positions is at www.wildwoodtrust.org. The deadline for applications is January 9.

Potential recruits get a power tour

MORE than 80 youngsters interested in becoming apprentices at Dungeness B nuclear power station attended a recent recruitment open day.

Vicky Mitchell, a technician at the EDF Energy-run Dungeness B, who has completed her four-year apprenticeship – chatted to the visitors about her experiences.

And the young people, ranging in age from 14 to 22, were shown the Control Room Simulator where Danny Tyrrell and Paul Windle, two of the training instructors at the power station, explained how the Control Room works to keep the power station running and power flowing into homes and businesses across Kent.

The potential recruits also watched a video covering the initial two years that apprentices study, and they saw exhibits of how Dungeness B power station works.

Gordon Reece, 17, studying at South Kent College in Ashford: "It's been a good day. I am very interested in applying for an apprenticeship."

School's apprentices start in college deal

A Maidstone school is one of the first in the county to recruit apprentices thanks to a new partnership forged with MidKent College.

Invicta Grammar School, which specialises in business and enterprise, has taken on 18-year-olds Lois Berry and Debbie Jarvis on a business administration apprenticeship.

The ambitious youngsters started their new jobs last week, which they will combine with their studies at MidKent College's Maidstone Campus.

Invicta Grammar School's assistant head Marelle Giles said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to support students in a vocational approach to work."

"Our business and enterprise status is all about encouraging our students to be prepared for the world of work."

"As such, it is really pleasing to think we can raise awareness of the importance of apprenticeships for all."

Last week Kent County Council revealed the number of apprenticeships in the county during the 2010-11 academic year totalled 8,720 – an increase of 74 per cent on the previous 12 months.

Cllr Mike Whiting – cabinet member for education, learning and skills – said Invicta Grammar was setting an example to other schools across the region to help further improve that figure.

He said: "It's not easy to find a job these days but we have a great opportunity in our

schools to offer young people a chance.

"We have 592 schools in Kent, and if every one of them took on at least one apprentice then that's 592 extra people in employment."

"It's great news that Invicta Grammar School has recognised the benefits apprentices can bring to an organisation, and it is setting a great example to others."

"The apprentices themselves will also act as fantastic role models to young people."

MidKent College is approved by the Skills Funding Agency to offer both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships, the latter of which prepare young people to become the managers and technicians of tomorrow.

The college currently offers 15 different apprenticeships covering a wide range of subject areas, and during next February's Apprenticeship Week will launch a new course in information technology.

MidKent College's head of business development, Jacqui Brown, said: "We are delighted to have formed this partnership with Invicta Grammar School and are pleased they are leading the way with their approach to apprenticeships."

"At a time when competition for jobs is fierce, it is important our young people realise there is a vocational way forward and that the academic route is not always the answer for everyone."



SCHOOL DAYS: Invicta assistant head Marelle Giles with Lois Berry and Debbie Jarvis

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Minister on hand as students battle for victory in wind turbine challenge

SWALE students impressed schools' minister Nick Gibb with their ingenuity and skills when they demonstrated their engineering expertise in a competition in Sittingbourne.

Five schools from the area took on the Southern Water Engineering Challenge to harness wind power. Teams from Sittingbourne Community College, Abbey School, Fulston Manor, Highsted Grammar, and Borden Grammar, designed and built wind turbines

with material and instruction provided by the Smallpeice Trust. They were judged on the amount of energy generated, budgeting for the build, stability, and design.

Mr Gibb said: "I have been really impressed with the high quality, scientific work produced by the students. I hope today will encourage them to consider taking science and maths to GCSE and A-level grades. These subjects are key to their future and the country's."

The winners of the Southern Water STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Challenge trophy were team 1 from The Abbey School in Faversham. Runners up were team 2 from The Abbey School, with Sittingbourne Community College taking third place.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson said: "I am delighted that Sittingbourne Community College has done so well. They were up against some tough competition."

Uni ecology data course is a UK first

THE University of Greenwich at Medway is launching the UK's first MSc Landscape Ecology with Geographical Information Systems (GIS) course in a bid to fill a growing skills gap.

Landscape ecologists identify, monitor and map the spread of plants and the movements of wildlife across landscapes.

Taking advantage of GIS computer mapping techniques, the landscape, plant and wildlife specialists can upload the information they have gathered in the field.

This data is then shared and combined with information collated by other environmental and conservation experts working in the same or neighbouring areas of the country.

The input of skilled landscape ecologists is now seen as an essential part of all environmental, conservation and land management projects and many planning and land-use proposals.

The new University of Greenwich course, which will be available part-time or full-time from September, 2012, has been designed in partnership with landscape management and ecological consultancies as well as professional organisations across the industry.

Dr Meredith Williams, senior lecturer in the University of Greenwich Centre for GIS and Remote Sensing, believes the course will be popular with companies and consultancies looking for staff training opportunities as well as full-time students.

He said: "People working in the rapidly grow-



DATA: Sharmain Wijemanna, an environmental conservationist, uses GIS to draw up a management plan for University of Greenwich campuses

ing environmental, conservation and landscape management sector are increasingly required to understand and manage the wide range and quantity of data now available to them through GIS – but they don't need to be GIS specialists.

"This new course brings together the established expertise from our MSc Environmental Conservation programme and our MSc GIS with Remote Sensing programme.

"The new MSc Landscape Ecology with GIS will give landscape ecology practitioners and conservation managers an appreciation of the merits and limitations of the information available to them; the skills they need to manage and make best use of that information; and the confidence to operate and manage their datasets."

Funding for the building blocks of a career in construction for women

WOMEN in Kent who work in the construction industry have been urged to contact CITB-ConstructionSkills which has secured funding to train up to 350 female construction workers across the UK.

The National Construction College (NCC) has developed Women and Work training courses which will run until the end of March, 2012.

Women in Kent who wish to take the courses can apply now and find out whether

they are eligible for funding.

The programme aims to support the retention and progression of women working in the construction industry. The programme helps by encouraging employers to invest in the skills development of their female employees.

Courses are designed to develop a range of skills for women who are new to the industry through to aspiring managers.

Some women may wish to add new skills to their CV while

others may have ambitions to climb the corporate ladder. The courses also offer networking opportunities with other women in the industry.

Sara Pearce of CITB-ConstructionSkills South East, said: "As part of our work to deliver the right skills for economic growth locally and nationally, we invest industry funds to help construction businesses upskill their workforce."

To check if you are eligible for funding call 0300 4565824.



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Closing date: 3 January 2012

Interview date: 16 January 2012

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'.

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Interview Date: 12 January 2012

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PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AW244 IN THE PARISH OF GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON

(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AW244)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1)
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleway AW244 between Bucksford Lane (Singleton Hill) and the junction with Public Footpath AW232 (NGR TQ 980 413) from the 9th January 2012.

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before March 2012.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route runs parallel to the bridleway and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Faye Faiers

PROW - BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT265 (PART), PADDOCK WOOD)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 8 December 2011 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath WT265 which commences at NGR TQ 6915 4325 (point A) at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT265 and runs in a west north westerly, westerly, west north westerly thence north westerly direction for 385 metres to its connection with Knowle Road at NGR TQ 6880 4338 (point B) and to provide a new length of Public Footpath WT265 which commences at the aforementioned point A (NGR TQ 6915 4325) and passes in a south westerly direction for 20 metres, west south westerly for 23 metres, thence south south westerly for 71 metres to its connection with Public Footpath WT287 at NGR TQ 6908 4317 (point C). The new length of path will have a width of 2.5 metres and will be situated 2.0 metres from the edge of the ditch.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN11 2AB or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 5 January 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 18 December 2011, make an application to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 18th December 2011

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
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HIGHWAYS - DISTRICT OF ASHFORD

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (LEACON LANE, WESTWELL, ASHFORD) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any vehicle, laden or unladen with a gross weight which exceeds 7.5 tonnes from using Leacon Lane from its junction with the A20 lay-by, in a south westerly direction, up to its junction with Hurstford Lane. Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any premises situated on these roads.

This will be for improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

A copy of the proposed Order together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford TN23 1AS and the Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to Tara O'Shea, Kent County Council Highways, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by not later than 12 noon on 9 January 2012.

OX LANE, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ox Lane, Tenterden, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 19 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Swain Road and Barnfield.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A28 Ashford Road / Silver Hill and Swain Road.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road and Swain Hill.

HIGHWAYS - DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY

CHARTHAM HATCH LEVEL CROSSING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER DECEMBER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chartham Hatch Level Crossing, on or after 19 December 2011 as shown below.

The planned closure times are as follows

Monday 19 December at 23.59 hours until Tuesday 20 December 2011 at 06.00 hours

Tuesday 20 December at 23.59 hours until Wednesday 21 December 2011 at 06.00 hours.

Hatch Lane, Chartham will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Howfield Lane and Town Lane.

HIGHWAYS - BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order introducing traffic movement restrictions as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 2nd January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned last 11 weeks or until the works are completed. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

Schedule 1	
The Affected Routes	The Temporary Restriction
West Hill, Dartford	One way traffic flow eastbound from Shepherds Lane to Highfield Road North
Highfield Road, Dartford	Road Closed from Instone Road to through traffic. Access will be maintained for residents and businesses
Highfield Road North, Dartford	One way traffic flow from West Hill to Westgate Road eastbound
Spital Street, Dartford	Two way traffic between Kent Road and West Hill, NO access to West Hill

Diversion for the above restrictions will be via: Kent Road, Spital Street, Hythe Street, Home Gardens, Overy Liberty, Market Street, Lowfield Street, Princes Road and Shepherds Lane. (From Instone Road, Highfield Road, and Heath Street then onto previous diversion at Lowfield Street)

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works for mains replacement for Southern Gas Networks.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - DISRICT OF DOVER

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)

CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO 7) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act: The effect of the Order will be:-

1. Fulbert Road junction with Rokesley Road, Dover. Proposed double yellow lines at junction
2. Fulbert Road, Dover. Proposed double yellow lines

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8DH, between 9am and 5.00pm, and at Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transportation and Development Manager, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 16 January 2012

VARIOUS ROADS, DEAL AREA (RAILWAY BRIDGE INSPECTIONS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of railway bridge inspections, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Deal area, on or after 19 December 2011, as shown below.

The roads below will each be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridges, from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

PARK AVENUE, DEAL will be closed on Monday 19 December 2011

The alternative route is via Mill Road, A258 Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, Prince of Wales Terrace, Deal Castle Road (Victoria Road and Ranelagh Road in reverse) and Gifford Road.

SOMERSET ROAD, DEAL will be closed on Tuesday 20 December

The alternative route is via Telegraph Road, Cornwall Road and Downs Road

STATION ROAD, MARTIN MILL will be closed on Wednesday 21 December

The alternative route is via East Langdon Road, The Street and Lucerne Lane

WHITE HILL, LANGDON will be closed on Thursday 22 December

The alternative route is via Solton Lane, A258 Deal Road, Hangman's Lane, The Street, East Langdon Road and White Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 11) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council, in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1) , 2(1) to (3) , 3(2) , 4(1) and (2) , 32(1), 35(1) , 45, 46, 49, 53 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby propose to make the following Order:

The effect of this order will revoke the following existing order:

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS,DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING SPACES) ORDER MARCH 2005. Schedule 2.11 - No waiting Mon-Fri 8-30 -5.30pm.

On the north-western side, from a point in line with the south western boundary wall of No.43 Dover Road south westwards to the south western boundary wall of No.47 Dover Road.

In the Articles to this Order:
PROHIBITION OF WAITING AT ANY TIME
The following table to be inserted in the correct numerical sequence
Roads in Sandwich in the District of Dover

1	2	3	4
Item	Name of Street	Side	Specified length
1	DOVER ROAD, SANDWICH	North West	From the junction with Stone Cross Lees for a distance of 20m in a south westerly direction and 20m in a north easterly direction.
2	STONE CROSS LEES, SANDWICH	Both	From the junction of Dover Road, for a distance of 12m in a north westerly direction.
3	DOVER ROAD, SANDWICH	North West	from a point in line with the south western boundary wall of No.43 Dover Road south westwards to the south western boundary wall of No.47 Dover Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER) (WEIGHT LIMIT RESTRICTION) (AMENDMENT NO. 2) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 1 , 2 (4) and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, hereby propose to make the following Order:

CITATION AND COMMENCEMENT
This Order may be cited as the Kent County Council (Various Roads, Dover) (Weight Limit Restriction) (Amendment No.2) Order 2012, and will come into force on XX XXXXX 2012.

WEIGHT LIMIT

1. Subject to the provisions set out in Article 2 of this Order no person shall cause any vehicle with a maximum gross weight capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes to proceed in any lengths of road specified in the Schedule to this Order.
2. Nothing in Article 1 shall prevent any person from causing or permitting a goods vehicle with a maximum gross weight capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes to proceed in any lengths of road specified in the Schedule to this Order if it is:
 - (i) being used for the loading and/or unloading of goods or merchandise to or from any premises or to gain access to off-street parking, storage or repair facilities situated in, or accessible only from, that length of road;
 - (ii) fire engine, ambulance or other vehicle in the service of a local authority or a Police Force and being used in pursuance of statutory powers or duties;

- (iii) being used, if it cannot be used for such purposes in any other road, in connection with any building operation; any maintenance, improvement or reconstruction of the length of road; or the laying, erection, alteration or repair in or near the length of road of any sewer, or of any main, pipe or apparatus for the supply of gas, water, electricity or communications;
- (iv) so required or authorised by a police constable in uniform;
- (v) or agricultural vehicles gaining access to adjacent land.

SCHEDULE	
Name of Road	Length of road affected
Old Dover Road	From the eastern junction with the B2011 to the junction with Helena Road.
Winehouse Lane, south of the B2011	Entire Length

HIGHWAYS - BOROUGH OF GRAVESHAM

VARIOUS ROADS, COBHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 2nd January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via schedule 1:

Schedule 1
Road name: Jeskyns Road, Cobham
Date: 3rd January 2012 for 4 weeks
Extent: Between its junctions with Sole Street and B390 Dabbs Place.
Diversion: Sole Street, Round Street, Church Street and Henhurst Road
Road name: B390 Dabbs Place, Cobham
Date: 23rd January 2012 for 4 weeks
Extent: Between its junctions with Jeskyns Road and Round Street
Diversion: Round Street, Sole Street and Jeskyns Road.
The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Water main renewal work.

HIGHWAYS - BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOW HILL, NETTLESTEAD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bow Hill at the Level Crossing on or after Saturday 7th January 2012 when required for a period of up to 2 nights between 23.40hrs and 04.00hrs or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2015 Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge Road, B2163 Teston Lane/Lower Road, B2010 Smiths Hill, Hunt Street, Bow Hill.

Network Rail apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for changing rails and tamping at the level crossing. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Emma Orsborne on 01924 372957.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WARREN STREET, WICHLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS

intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Warren Street from the junction of Payden Street to “The Hollies” on or after Monday 2nd January 2012 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Hubbards Hill, A20 Ashford Road, Faversham Road, Payden Street.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install a new drainage pipe. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A224 POLHILL, SEVENOAKS)
(50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, propose to make the following Order:-

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 50 miles per hour along A224 Polhill and London Road, from the junction with Morants Court Road to the junction with Shoreham Lane.
2. This Order may be cited as “The Kent County Council (A224 Polhill, Sevenoaks) (50 mph Speed Limit) Order 2012”.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Sevenoaks Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on 16th January 2012.

STATION ROAD (BLOWERS HILL) COWDEN -
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Road (Blowers Hill) from the Railway Bridge to Junction of Cow Lane.

The Order will become effective on 02 January 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 07 January 2012 and will last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Cow Lane, Cowden Pound Road, Hartfield Road, Station Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate water mains replacements.

HIGHWAYS - DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

FAIRFIELD ROAD, NEW ROMNEY
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fairfield Road, New Romney, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Cannon Street and Oak Lodge Road.

The alternative route is via Fairfield Road, George Lane, A259 Dymchurch Road, St Mary’s Road and Fairfield Road.

GRIMSTON AVENUE AND WESTBOURNE GARDENS,
FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grimston Avenue and Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

GRIMSTON AVENUE will be closed at the junction with Sandgate Road.

The alternative route is via Bouverie Road West and Earls Avenue.

WESTBOURNE GARDENS will be closed at the western junction with Sandgate Road.

The alternative route is via the eastern junction with Sandgate Road.

HIGH STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Hythe, on or after 3 January 2012 for an estimated period up to 26 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling phases working from Douglas Avenue towards Bank Street.

There is no alternative route. Local businesses have been consulted to make alternative arrangements for deliveries.

The Order which made Theatre Street a No Through Road will be suspended whilst the works are being carried out between Douglas Avenue and Theatre Street, with its through use limited to deliveries.

HIGHWAYS - DISTRICT OF SWALE

CLOCK HOUSE LEVEL CROSSING, BOUGHTON
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER
DECEMBER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clock House Level Crossing, Boughton, as shown below.

The planned closure times are as
Wednesday 21 December 2011 at 23.59 hours until Thursday 22/12/2011 at 06.00 hours

Thursday 22 December 2011 23.59 hours until Friday 23 December 2012 at 06.00 hours

Sunday 22 January 2012 at 01.50 hours until Monday 23 January 2012 at 04.10 hours

Clockhouse Lane, Boughton will be closed at the Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via Clockhouse Lane, Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

THE STREET, IWADE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Iwade, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with School Lane and Sanderling Way.

There will be no access for through traffic using The Street.

The alternative route is via Ferry Road, Sheppey Way, Grovehurst Road, A249 Iwade By-pass and Sheppey Way.

VICARAGE LANE, LOWER HALSTOW
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Vicarage Lane, Lower Halstow, on or after 3 January 2012 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with School Lane and The Street.

The alternative route is via School Lane and The Street.

HIGHWAYS - DISTRICT OF THANET

SEVENSORE LEVEL CROSSING, MINSTER
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable Network Rail to carry out level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sevenscore Level Crossing, Minster, from 7 January 2012 as shown below. Ebbsfleet Lane will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure times are from Saturday 7 January 2012 at 2.00 am until Monday 9 January 2012 at 2.00 am.

There is no alternative route, as the road is now a No Through Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, WESTWOOD, THANET)
(RESTRICTED ROADS) ORDER 2011

The Council of the County of Kent in exercise of their powers under sections 82 (2) and 83 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter called “the Act”) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 of Part III to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:-

1. The lengths of road specified in the Schedule to this Order shall be restricted roads for the purpose of Section 81 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
2. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
3. This Order may be cited as “THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Various Roads, Westwood, Thanet) (Restricted Roads) Order 2011” and shall come into operation the 19th day of December 2011.

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Schedule (30 mph Speed Limit)	
A254 Ramsgate Road, Westwood	From the central traffic island located some 10 metres south of the southern boundary of No. 300 Ramsgate Road to the boundary of A254 Ramsgate Road and A254 Margate Road (near Poorhole Lane).
A254 Margate Road, Westwood	From the boundary with A254 Ramsgate Road (near Poorhole Lane) to a point 5 metres south east of the common boundary of No. 477 & 475 Margate Road.
A256 Haine Road, Westwood	From the junction with A254 Margate Road to appoint 43 metres south west of the junction with Nash Lane.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - BOROUGH OF
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LUCKS LANE, PADDOCK WOOD)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lucks Lane outside of “Little Howlands” on or after Monday 19th December 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane, Queen Street.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to adjust a frame and cover, reinstate outlet pipe and reinstate the carriageway. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Alastair Coleman on 08458 247 800.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 18th December 2011



MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Mrs Annie Flower of Duckpit Farmhouse, Duckpit Road, Petham to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address

Giles Adey, Head of Registration,
Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford

Applicant: Deidre Billing

Name of Premises: Holiday Inn Ashford Central, 105 Canterbury Road, Ashford

Applicant: Christopher Ross

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND
CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR
CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Hilltop Hotel, Labour in Vain Road, Stansted

Applicant: Daren Sefer

Name of Premises: The Great Barn, Halden Place, Rolvenden

Applicant: Edward Barham

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

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PLANNING

Public Notice

17 December 2011



Notice of Public Path Order

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 257
Paragraph 1 of Schedule 14
Canterbury City Council**
Footpath CB68 Part – Land adjoining 73 Sweechgate, Broad Oak, Sturry CT2 0QR

The Order made on 24 March 2011 has now been withdrawn.

The above order was made on 16 December 2011. The effect of the order will be to divert the entire width of the public footpath running from a point marked A north north-westerly for 40 metres to a point marked B on the plan which is to Sweechgate and create an alternative footpath instead to a line running from a point marked A in a north north-easterly direction for 34 metres to a point C on the plan to Sweechgate with a width throughout of 2.7 metres.

A copy of the order and the order map may be seen free of charge at Canterbury City Council offices, Military Road, Canterbury, from 9am to 5pm on Monday to Friday. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £3.

Any representation about or objection to the order may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to Mark Ellender, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW not later than 27 January 2012. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn Canterbury City Council may itself confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representation or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Mark Ellender, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

**THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications**

MA/11/1832/N - 4, OAK CROFT, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4GF - Erection of a part two storey part single storey rear/side extension and erection of a detached garage. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1873/S - CHAINHURST OAST HOUSE, HUNTON ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9SX - Installation of a free standing frame incorporating 16 solar panels. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1995/S - LAND TO THE EAST OF BERESFORD COTTAGE, THE QUARRIES, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA, KENT - Single storey rear extensions. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1996/N - BARN AT GREENWAY COURT FARM, GREENWAY COURT ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT, ME17 1QD - Application to vary condition 3 (No activity in connection with the use of the site, including deliveries and cleaning, shall be carried out outside the hours of 0700am to 1800pm Monday to Friday inclusive; 0800am to 1700pm on Saturdays; and at no time on Sundays and Public Holidays) of MA/11/0514 (change of use and conversion of barn to B1 (a) office unit with associated access and parking) to read as follows: 'No HGV movements to and from the site shall take place outside the hours of 0700 to 1900 hrs Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1700 hrs on Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and public holidays'. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/2009/S - R P M INSTALLATIONS (KENT) LTD, THE FORGE, 3-5, FARLEIGH HILL, MAIDSTONE, ME15 6RG - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission MA/06/0228 - Appeal Ref. A/J2235/A/07/2044615 (Demolition of existing industrial building and ancillary office and construction of a residential development comprising 10 flats and external car park) to allow a further 3 years in which to implement the development. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/2012/S - LAND SOUTH OF, ENTRANCE TO VALE HOUSE, OLD LOOSE HILL, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0BH - An application for the prior approval of the local planning authority for the installation of 1no equipment cabinet. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/2015/N - 1-6, COLLEGE WALK, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6PA - Extension to existing car parking area to provide 6no additional spaces. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/2023/N - BROOKLYN YARD, CHATHAM ROAD, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3AW - Erection of B8 storage and distribution (including self-storage) building, with access, parking and landscaping. **Reason: 6, 9**

MA/11/2044/N - 3-5, BREWER STREET, MAIDSTONE, ME14 1RU - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/08/0405 (redevelopment of existing retail/residential use to provide A1/A2/B1 uses, fourteen new two bedroom flats with associated parking (resubmission of MA/07/2070)) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Reason: 1, 2, 6**

MA/11/2061/S - FORGE COTTAGE, 1, FORGE LANE, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9QG - Listed building consent for internal alterations and external alterations including removal of timber cladding to expose oak frame, insertion of dormer window, widening and putting a pitched roof on existing dormer window and alterations to fenestration. This is to facilitate conversion of two dwellings into one dwelling. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **1st January 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 18th December 2011


**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT
1990**
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND
CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
5. The application does not accord with the provisions of the Development Plan.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.
8. This application is accompanied as an Environmental Statement.

**REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE
FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE
MADE BY 4th January 2012**

SW/11/1282:

Listed Building Consent for replacement of an existing poor quality pine front door with a solid oak door - Godwins, Stalisfield Green, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/11/1482:

Residential development of 62 dwellings, together with roads, footpaths, garages and associated works - Faversham Foundry, Seager Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/11/1497

Re-development of Sandbanks Farm into new dwelling with attached village room and workshop/office area, revisions to approved scheme SW/10/0412; Sandbanks Farm, Perrywood, SELLING; **REASONS 2 & 4**

SW/11/1508 &

SW/11/1509:

Part conversion of stable annex to granny annex - 53 London Road, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 2**

SW/11/1515:

Removal from the house of numerous brick/timber extensions and replacement with brick built extension with oak weatherboarding to upper elevations. Removal of existing outbuilding and replacement with new timber framed workshop/store - Keepers Lodge, Swanton Street, BREDGAR; **REASON 4**

TN/11/0124:

Erection of telecommunications cabinet - Adjacent 95 High Street, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning


Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/03537/HOUSE **Rowley Plain Cuckoo Lane, Brencley**
- Refurbishment, single storey extension and detached garage (LB)

11/03538/LBC **Rowley Plain Cuckoo Lane, Brencley**
- Listed Building Consent: Refurbishment, single storey extension and detached garage (LB)

11/03618/LBC **Pippins Gedges Hill, Brencley**
- Listed Building Consent: Replace three windows to front and two to rear of property (LB)

11/03661/LBC **St Luke's Church Maidstone Road, Brencley**
- Listed Building Consent: Double glazed doors to the existing outer arched opening of the north porch (LB)

11/03454/HOUSE **6 Hungershall Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater**
- Erection of two car ports, swimming pool building and replacement patio (CA)

11/03600/FUL **35 Mount Ephraim Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Change of use to C3 dwelling (LB) (CA)

11/03531/REM **Former PF Skeet Yard Talbot Road, Hawkhurst**
- Reserved Matters (All matters) - Three bedroom dwelling (TW/09/00753 refers) (CA)

11/03687/FUL **Manor Farm Maidstone Road, Horsmonden**
- Livestock building (PROW)

11/03626/HOUSE **Yew Tree Cottage The Down, Lamberhurst**
- Two-storey side extension (CA)

11/03629/FUL **Holme Grange Rusthall Road, Rusthall**
- Replacement of double glazed timber windows and balcony doors with PVC units (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by e-mail to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 17 December 2011


PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral, the Precincts, Canterbury, CT1 2EH have applied to Canterbury City Council for the VARIATION of the Premises Licence as follows:-

1. To permit the extension until mid night of the hours authorised under the Premises Licence for the licensable activities authorised under the Premises Licence on not more than 12 occasions in any calendar year.
2. To permit the provision of late night refreshment on not more than 12 occasions in any calendar year until 00.30 hours.
3. To permit the premises to be open to non residents from 09.00 hours to 00.30 hours.

for the premises The International Study Centre, The Precincts, Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury CT1 2EH

A register of Licensing Applications can be inspected at <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing> or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above giving in detail the grounds of objection by 06/01/2012.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued. It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the Standard Scale under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

Girlings - Solicitors for the applicants
16 Rose Lane, Canterbury CT1 2UR

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PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
 Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
 Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01916/FUL: 48 Harbour Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AQ Insertion of first-floor window on south elevation. **Applicant: Harbour Foods Ltd**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01928/FUL: 2 Beverley Road, Canterbury, CT2 7EN Erection of first-floor extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr John Morgan**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01951/FUL: 7 Town Road, Petham, CT4 5QT Erection of conservatory to side elevation of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Brady**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01961/FUL: 20 Little Paddocks, Chestfield, CT5 3PR First-floor extension over garage with two storey extension to rear of garage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Bain** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01984/FUL: Land south of 24 The Street, Adisham, CT3 3UL Erection of pair of semi-detached dwellings and removal of existing Sycamore tree. **Applicant: The Church Commissioners for England** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02003/FUL: Settle House, The Street, Petham, CT4 5QU Single-storey extension to side of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Pillai**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02006/FUL: Furring, Garlinge Green Road, Petham, CT4 5RP Replacement dwelling. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Van Rooyan** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02013/FUL: 64 Charles Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5HW Conversion of seven bedsits into three bedroom dwelling and one bedroom self-contained basement flat. **Applicant: Mrs T Charlesworth** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02017/FUL: 11 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, CT5 2AB Single-storey rear and side extension. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Grout**
 Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02023/FUL: Land at Bakers Lane, Chartham, CT4 7QB Erection of a detached dwelling and associated parking (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Crouch** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/02047/FUL: Land rear of Homeside Farmhouse, The Street, Bossingham, Upper Hardres, CT4 6DX Erection of detached dwelling and alterations to Homeside Farmhouse to provide vehicular access. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Hewitt** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.control@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 9 January 2012**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
 Friday 16 December 2011



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BARRY

Maci-Rae Georgia Barry born on 2nd December 2011 weighing 7lb 4oz daughter of Sarah-Louise Barry.

BARRETT

15/11/11 Dan and Kristin Barrett Celebrate the birth of their daughter Emily on 15th November 2011.

BEARDSMORE

Adam and Kelly are proud to announce the birth of their son George Peter born 13th November 2011 weighing 7lb 14oz. Welcome to the World George.

BRENNAND

Lilly 25/11/11 Jennifer and Arun Brennand of West Malling would like to announce the birth of Lilly Marie Brennand. Born on the 25th of November 2011 weighing 7 pounds and 8 ounces. Now a little Sister to big brother Blake"

DAVIS

Finlay and Susan Davis celebrate the birth of their son Miles William Ronald on 4th December 2011, weighing 8lb 6oz.

HARGREAVES

Lewis James born on 29th November 2011, weighing 8lb 7oz. Son to Hannah Farnell and Dean Hargreaves and brother to Hayden.

HARRIS

Steve and Hannah Harris are very proud to announce the birth of Una Lowen Harris on the 17th November 2011 7lbs 5oz.

HUCKSTED

Andrew and Tracy of Cheriton celebrate the birth of their son Harry Andrew Hucksted on 2nd December 2011

NAGY-PERRY

Luke Douglas born on 11th November 2011 at 11 minutes past 11 am weighing 8lb/0oz to Gabor and Fiona. With special thanks to Ingrid lane and Mark Waterstone Consultant at Darent Valley Hospital.

PRICE

Laura and Stuart of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Mia Ann-Low Joan Price, born on the 23rd November 2011 at QEQM Hospital weighing 7lb 3oz. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

DEATHS

BOARD

Pat passed away 10th December 2011. Funeral on 21st december 2011 12.00 pm. St John The Baptist Church Church Road Sutton at Hone

BRUCE

Yvonne Vilma Veronica Bruce passed away peacefully on 4th December 2011. Funeral at Emmanuel Pentecostal Church, Dartford on 22nd December 2011 at 11.00am. Flowers to Levertons Funeral Service.

FINN

June Finn died peacefully on December 5th 2011, reunited with Wilf. Memorial service at St Lukes, Maidstone January 6th 2012 at 2pm.

TAYLOR

Georgina Ann Taylor on 22nd November 2011 aged 70. Dearly loved Wife of David, Mother to Karen and Denise and Grandmother to Emma, Gary, Kerry, Andrew and David, Great Grandmother to Joshua. Funeral service to be held at Vinters Park Crematorium on 14th December. Family flowers only but donations to MacMillan Cancer Support please.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

KCC/CA/0492/2011 - Proposed development at Studd Hill Household Waste Recycling Centre, Westbrook Lane and Thanet Way, Herne Bay, Kent.

KCC Waste Management Unit is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 and 21 of planning permission CA/09/1903 for the alteration and extension of the existing Studd Hill HWRC.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

KCC/SE/0434/2011 - Proposed development at Seal CEP School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0DJ.

Kent County Council is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for continued retention of an existing modular building.

KCC/SE/0472/2011 - Proposed development at Seal CEP School, Zambra Way, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0DJ.

Seal CE Primary School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for a Special Educational Needs (SEN) modular building.

The proposed developments do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

You may view these applications at Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/SE/0504/2011 - Proposed development at Duntun Green Primary School, London Road, Duntun Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2UR.

Duntun Green Primary School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for the erection of new 3.06 metre high green weld mesh fencing, and realignment of the fence to the front of the school site, including an alteration to the pedestrian access point. The proposed development may affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on the Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX by 16 January 2012. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2011

NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 22 - DETERMINATION OF "SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS" FOR APPROVAL OF DETAILS ACCOMPANIED BY FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Proposed development at Northfleet Works, The Shore, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 9AN.

I give notice that Crossrail Ltd / BAM Ferrovial Kerr JV sought approval from Kent County Council on 29 November 2011 for the discharge of conditions 5, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29 and 30 of planning permission GR/10/1127 (i.e. a Temporary Tunnelling Logistics Facility) dated 15 April 2011. The applications are accompanied by further environmental information to enable the environmental effects of a number of changes to the development to be assessed in accordance with regulation 8. The main changes are that the Temporary Tunnelling Logistics Facility would no longer include a segment batching plant, chalk stockpile area, plate pressing plant, gantry cranes and water treatment facility and would only include one rail siding and fewer conveyor links. It would also include some changes to the previous layout such as the storage of imported excavated materials on the area previously intended for the segment batching plant and its associated storage area.

You may view copies of the applications, the plans, the further environmental information and other documents submitted with the applications at Gravesend Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU or at the Kent County Council offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours until 16 January 2012. Copies of the details may also be obtained from the Planning Applications Group so long as stocks last. Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on the Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX by 16 January 2012, quoting application reference number(s): GR/10/1127/R5, GR/10/1127/R8, GR/10/1127/R9, GR/10/1127/R15, GR/10/1127/R16, GR/10/1127/R22, GR/10/1127/R24, GR/10/1127/R25&26, GR/10/1127/R27, GR/10/1127/R29 and GR/10/1127/R30. Please note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
 Head of Planning
 Applications Group
 Kent County Council
 Dated: 18 December 2011



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It's a sailor's life for me! A career at sea is related in riveting book

SEE PAGE 41



PETER ANDRE

Mysterious Girl star to perform all his best hits

SEE PAGE 46

Kent Weekend

Witness a rare feat

Irish dancing to get your toes tapping

SEE PAGE 49



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THE INTERVIEW

Captain Peter Russell

Memoirs of a seafaring man

ALIFE at sea has been documented by Captain Peter Russell, who first took to the waves in 1950 and finally retired as Senior Pilot in the Port of London in 1999.

Unplanned Passage tells the story of his voyage through life, including his apprenticeship, years in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and later work as a marine pilot.

It's a story of ships, large and small – and the many and varied characters who sail in them.

"I have had a fairly eventful life and I wanted

to document it," said Capt Russell, who was born in 1934. "I think it is not very often that someone gets a job they have always wanted.

"During my whole life it has been a pleasure for me to go to work and I think that is probably pretty rare.

"I had a heart bypass operation in 1996 and it was then I decided to put pen to paper.

"As a pilot I had detailed logs and accounts of what I did and I've always written letters, so I used them to bring back memories of where I was at what particular time."

Capt Russell grew up in Folkestone during the war years – and one of his earliest memories is being machine-gunned by a German aircraft.

"I can still remember the tombstone in a churchyard that my father pushed me behind to get under cover," he said.

"I also remember that as a small boy all I wanted to do was go to sea and after I joined the Sea Cadets I got a four-year apprenticeship on board a ship called the Empire Byng.

"We went out east and were delivering Sherman tanks during the Korean War.

"After that I went into the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and served for 11 years, but while at home on sick leave I saw an advertisement for a pilot's job with Trinity House.

"So I applied and that is what I did for the next 21 years – piloting ships around Dungeness and into the Thames estuary. I was taking them into all the ports... Dover,

Nick Ames learns about life on the high seas in a remarkable book



LIFE ON THE WATER: Captain Peter Russell has led a varied and fascinating life on the sea, and he shares his memories in his book, Unplanned Passage

Folkestone, Ramsgate and Sheerness. Some of them were massive 300,000-tonne ships and I was working in all kinds of weather, some of it extreme.

"I tell in my book about the risks in piloting and the conditions on board ships, the food, the duties and, of course, the people I served with.

"In 1988 there was a reorganisation of Trinity House and I was employed by the Port of London Authority, again handling huge ships.

"As a pilot for a total of 32 years, accounts I kept were there for reference. The letters I referred to I'd written to my parents and my

wife. They certainly helped in writing the book."

In retirement, Capt Russell keeps his maritime connections. He is a member of Trinity House, London, a member of The Honourable Company of Master Mariners and a Life Governor of The Marine Society and Sea Cadets.

From 1998 until 2000 he served as president of the Nautical Unit.

Former Nautical Institute chief and fellow Master Mariner Julian Parker OBE writes in the foreword: "I would like a wide audience to share the experience of Unplanned Passage. There are

so many lessons to pass on. It is too personal to be a novel.

"The characters in a novel are imagined and do not have to be believed. Here, however, we have a real person, a family man, a mariner who reached the top of his profession, a charitable Rotarian who believed in enriching the community and a creative artist. This is also the story of how rewarding a life at sea can be."

Illustrations in the book are the work of Capt Russell himself and it is available from Waterstones stores across Kent, as well as from Amazon; the publisher's price is £16.99.



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- Greece - Corinth Canal
- Turkey - Istanbul
- Greece - Santorini
- Greece - Kefalonia
- Italy - Sicily
- Disembark Marseilles

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ashford/Ebbsfleet departures on request) or return flight to Marseilles
- 11-night Full-Board cruise sharing a standard inside cabin - upgrades available
- All transfers abroad

*£50pp initial deposit when booked by 30 Dec, followed by £150pp payable by 31 January and full balance payable 12 weeks before departure

Monaco Spring Gardens & Villefranche Citadel in Bloom

Escorted Holiday by Rail from London, Ebbsfleet & Ashford
6 days

Quote MR4-KOS

Was £699pp
Now £659pp

12 to 17 April, 2012

Monaco and the Côte d'Azur have many magnificent gardens with species from distant lands. The Princess Grace Rose Garden is one of Monte Carlo's most visited attractions. Set in Fontvieille Park, bordered by palms and olive trees the rose garden is an area of calm and serenity where the scent of 4,000 roses perfumes in the air. Join us as we visit this garden, Monaco's Jardin Exotique and more. We will also visit Villefranche-sur-mer 'Citadel in Bloom' flower show overlooking the Cap Ferrat peninsula.



INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne check-in at St Pancras
- Afternoon departure
- Return rail travel from London to Nice (Ebbsfleet & Ashford

departures on request)

- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris
- 4 nights hotel B&B in Nice
- All garden visits
- All transfers abroad

*£50pp initial deposit when booked by 30 Dec, followed by £150pp payable by 31 January and full balance payable 12 weeks before departure



Mamma Mia Party

For over 40s only

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote MP3-KOS

£99pp

16 to 19 March, 2012

Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned

supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

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- Mamma Mia the Movie
- Top Abba Tribute band
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night
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- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation



Carry on New Year Party in Leicestershire

For over 40s only
Bosworth Hall Hotel Leicestershire

Self drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote CO1-KOS

WAS £109pp

SALE PRICE £99pp

6, 13, 20, 27 Jan & 3 Feb, 2012

Our popular party weekends - for over 40s only, at Bosworth Hall Hotel in the village of Market Bosworth - have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year for a great-value weekend.

INCLUDED:

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- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment both nights
- Indoor pool & gym (£4pp per day payable at the hotel)



Carry on New Year Party in London

4-star London International Hotel, London Docklands

Self drive, 2 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar

Quote LC1-KOS

WAS £119pp

SALE PRICE £109pp

January 2 to 4, 2012

Extend the New Year celebration at the 4-star Britannia London

International Hotel, situated on the water's edge in London Docklands with superb views of the London skyline. You will enjoy dinner and breakfast each day, a 99p bar and entertainment both evenings. All bedrooms have an en suite bathroom, TV, hairdryer, and internet access.

INCLUDED:

- En-suite accommodation
- 99p bar from 7pm to 11pm both evenings for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts
- Entertainment
- Indoor pool & gym (£4pp per day payable at the hotel)

FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Romance-seekers lost in France somewhere on the way to Paris

ELEGANT and chic, the French pride themselves on their reputation for romance.

On a friend's recommendation, my partner and I ventured into Medway seeking a cross-Channel experience of fine wine and cuisine.

Rochester high street on a Saturday night can be daunting, but nestled past the neon lights and screeching miniskirt brigade we found Elizabeth's of Eastgate.

The attractive Tudor façade led to a cosy interior of low wooden beams and red-brick walls hung with bright abstract paintings.

The friendly staff welcomed us and, although the single room quickly filled up, maintained their careful attention throughout.

A large glass of Pinot Noir, selected from an extensive wine list, wasn't cheap at £8.50, but it was smooth and fruity.

The menu was simple but mouthwateringly appealing, with each course a fixed price of £7.95 for starters, £18.50 for mains and £6.50 for desserts.

Although each dish came with a nod to its French heritage, at the heart of the meal was good Kentish food. A member of Produced in Kent, the restaurant sources its food from local markets and suppliers wherever possible.

Used to year-round supermarket freshness, I was surprised but pleased when the waiter advised us

RESTAURANT REVIEW



the runner beans were coming out of season and recommended choosing a different side dish.

Sadly, however, the plate of spinach (£3) we selected was adequate but uninspired.

Having ordered, we were greeted with a bread basket and coffee cups of spicy vegetable soup "compliments of the chef". Perhaps I'm a sucker for a freebie, but small gestures such as these help offset the guilt of splashing out for a nice meal. That said, I did eye enviously the complimentary olives the table next to us also received.

Arriving quickly, my starter of delicately thin beef carpaccio with truffle oil and shaved Parmesan was tasty but paled in comparison with my

partner's roast pigeon breast with a dollop of apricot-and-tarragon stuffing and game jus.

My main course of half-roast Kent pheasant came with a divine vanilla mash, assorted vegetables, whisky sauce and a circle of rilletes wrapped in a bitter cabbage which, on reflection, was probably for decoration, not eating.

My partner opted for the chargrilled pave of local beef, served with dauphinoise potatoes and a green peppercorn sauce. Pave refers to the cut, not the size, and the beef quickly vanished, unlike my generous portion of pheasant, which was a little too dry. Although initially suspicious of her beetroot sorbet, my partner finished it with gusto, along with a rich baked chocolate tart.

The vanilla crème brulee with raspberries was crisp and sweet. A cafetiere of coffee came with a selection of petit fours, rounding off the meal perfectly at £2.75 each.

The final bill came to £79.40, excluding tip. Not an everyday night out, not quite the Parisian experience we'd expected, either, but certainly worth a second look for a special occasion.

David Pritchard

■ **Elizabeth's of Eastgate**
154 High Street, Rochester ME1 1ER
Telephone: 01634 843472
www.elizabethsofeastgate.co.uk

FARMERS' MARKETS

WAREHORNE: All profits go toward the upkeep of the village hall. The market, which is run by volunteers, takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm.

YALDING: Open on the third Saturday of every month in the high street. Products include fruit and vegetables (including organic), bread, cheese, fresh meats and sausages.

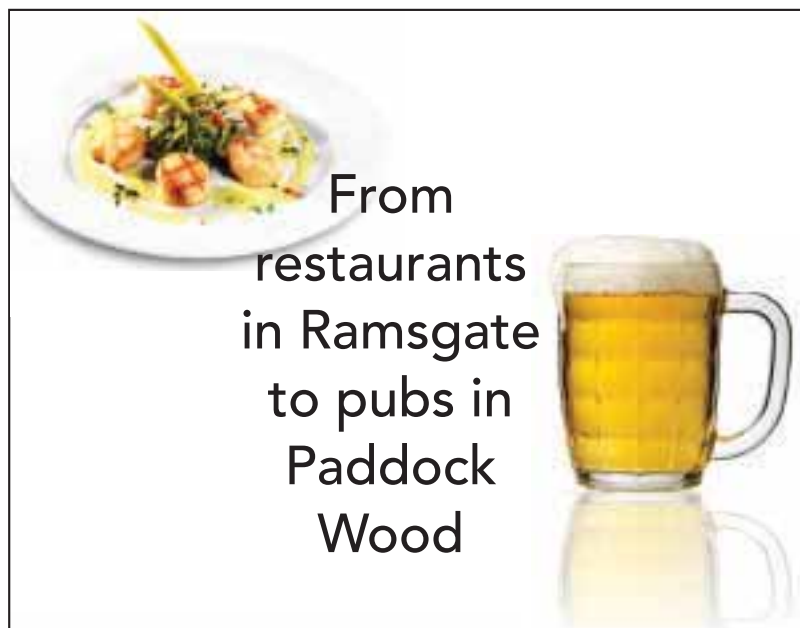
ST MARGARET'S: Running for over 12 years on the last Friday of the month (9am to 12.30pm). It is a non-profit-making charity and the market is the main fund-raising activity for the village nursery, benefiting the community.

HORSMONDEN: Held every other Friday with some 20 stalls, covering a full range of produce including meat, eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables, bread, jams and pickles, pies, cakes, exotic produce and Italian meals.

HEADCORN: Open every second Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality local produce and locally-made goods.

PENSHURST: The Times recently named this market in its Top 10 markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, and set against the backdrop of Penshurst Place, this hugely popular market is held on the first Saturday of each month.

■ For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk



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for more information, visit our website on
www.delhispace.co.uk
www.rose-inn.co.uk

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EATING OUT

Across the county



Quality the key for experienced celeb favourite

BLOOMERS Restaurant at the Overcliffe Hotel is a rare gem that should not be missed.

Established in 1980, it is one of the best-kept secrets in Kent, offering excellent food and an ambience second to none.

The bar, restaurant and conservatory are all candlelit at night, giving the place a cosy quality – ideal for that very special meal with the most important person in your life.

Most Saturdays the resident pianist will serenade diners on the grand piano, performing an excellent selection of music to suit every mood.

This truly relaxing experience can be added to as diners sit back with a perfectly-chilled glass of Champagne or an expertly-mixed cocktail in the conservatory.

There is also a first-class menu and extensive wine list. Over the years those who have enjoyed the atmosphere include former Prime Minister Tony Blair and celebrities such as Freddie Starr, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Rick Wakeman and Max Boyce.

There is even a celebrity corner, where guests and diners can check out who has gone before them. They are open to non-residents for dinner each evening, but to make the experience complete, why not book a room and stay over?

■ Bloomers Restaurant
Overcliffe Hotel
15-16 Overcliffe, Gravesend DA11 0EF
Telephone: 01474 322131
www.overcliffehotel.co.uk

CHEF RECOMMENDS

MINT LEAF LOUNGE: Telephone 01795 521330 or 522003
STARTER: Special banquet platter (for two) – chef's fine selection of Harrey tikka (minty chicken), lamb tikka, fish kola and vegetable sarnosas.

MAIN: Kattamitta chicken/lamb – sizzling chicken/lamb cooked in a sweet yet spicy tarimand sauce bursting with aromas and flavours of spices and herbs. A fresh and flavourful dish with a slight kick in the finish. It is recommended that this be accompanied with plain rice and a side dish of bindhi churichur.

DESSERT: Choose from cheeses or lemon ice-cream.

SEE HO: Telephone 01474 822386

STARTER: Calamari.

MAIN: Sirloin steak.

DESSERT: Apple pie and custard.

BLOOMERS: Telephone 01474 322131

STARTER: Warm goat's cheese with roasted red onion, rocket and Parmesan salad.

MAIN: Baked lamb layered with a walnut-and-mushroom stuffing served with a light mint jus.

DESSERT: Spotted dick served with custard.

WAGGON AT HALE: Telephone 01634 400800

STARTER: Stilton mushrooms.

MAIN: Cod loin wrapped in Parma ham and drizzled with a creamy white-wine-and-prawn sauce, served with a choice of potatoes and a selection of fresh vegetables.

DESSERT: Apple-and-blackberry crumble, served with a choice of ice-cream, custard or crème.

ELVEY FARM: Telephone 01233 840 442

STARTER: Spicy butterflied tiger prawns served with a salad bouquet and sweet chilli dressing.

MAIN: Half a boneless pheasant served with braised red cabbage, bubble and squeak, a flambé brandy and grape sauce.

DESSERT: Ginger sticky toffee pudding served with vanilla ice-cream.



ALL IN A NAME: The Waggon At Hale is gaining a wholly enviable reputation for great food and drink – and a top atmosphere

New look and new owner get the Waggon At Hale rolling

THERE has been truly remarkable transformation at the Waggon At Hale, near Chatham, in just one year.

If you had been to the pub before, be prepared for a change. They do say it's easy to lose a reputation but hard to create one... well, Emma Pearson, the new proprietor, is fast gaining a reputation for establishing a well-run family pub with good food, good beer and a very friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

The bar is comfortable and at this time of year the eatery boasts a very attractive log fire, while the restaurant area looks classy and traditionally welcoming.

The home-cooked-food menu covers all tastes, with simple light bites to the ever-popular traditional Sunday roast, Thai fish cakes to the Waggon burger... handmade with Angus scotch beef.

The pub is open from 10am at weekends, when breakfast is

served; otherwise, the restaurant serves food from midday through to 9pm every day of the week.

There is a good wine selection, which includes some fine specials to complement the menu.

Every so often, Emma holds the increasingly-popular tasting evenings, at which a wine expert is on hand to introduce new flavours and the food they complement.

The Waggon is also great for families and parties – and where

better to hold your Christmas party? Groups of up to 30 are catered for and there is no increase in the cost on different days of the week.

Families are always welcome to stroll around the mini family farm to see chickens, guinea pigs, rabbits and, of course, Crackling the pig!

■ Waggon At Hale
179 Capstone Road, Chatham
ME5 7PP
Telephone: 01634 400800
www.waggonathale.co.uk

A Christmas cracker at the heart of Kent

ELVEY Farm in Pluckley is a beautiful location in the heart of Darling Buds Of May country.

It's the perfect spot for a restaurant, tucked away across the fields, with amazing views in all directions... a little country oasis.

The farm has plans for the festive season and is open seven nights a week and for lunch on Sundays in the lead-up to Christmas and there are also some last-minute places for Christmas party bookings of eight or more as long as they are booked slightly in advance.

Elvey Farm really comes into its own at Christmas. The log fire crackles away in the bar, the restaurant is decked out in traditional Christmas garb, the frost glistens in the surrounding fields and the smells from the kitchen are too tempting for words.

Take a trip into the Kentish heartland and try some very Kentish dishes.



Starters include fresh-pea-and-ham soup with Kentish huffkin, crab-and-cucumber salad

with garnish, and chicken-liver-and-fig pâté served with toasted huffkin fingers.

Main dishes range from beef, pork, lamb or chicken for the roasts to the likes of pan-fried seabass fillets, beef-and-oyster casserole or roasted-mixed-pepper-and-tomato tart as other options.

Delicious desserts include baked-chocolate cheesecake and strawberries with Chantilly cream. Cheese and biscuits are another option.

Elvey Farm is open for dinner every evening from 6.30pm and for lunch every Sunday from midday.

■ Elvey Farm
Elvey Lane
Pluckley
TN27 0SU
Telephone: 01233 840442
www.elveyfarm.co.uk

KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk



Breeding hope Cheetah pair hits the spot

Port Lympne Wildlife Park
Open 10am-4pm
0844 8424647
www.aspinallfoundation.org

KEEPERS at Port Lympne have welcomed two female cheetahs from Ebeltoft Zoo in Denmark. The pair, Messina and Jofane, are both southern cheetahs, a

vulnerable species that may only have some 7,500-10,000 individuals left in the wild. Richard Barnes, head big-cat keeper, said: "Unfortunately, the southern cheetah is threatened in the wild, so it is a pleasure to work with them. "We hope that early next year we will start introducing the females to our two males as part of our ongoing breeding programme." It is believed that in 1900 there were more than 100,000 wild southern cheetahs, but hunting and loss of habitat caused a dramatic fall in numbers.

Varying views of Christmas Open house

Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks
Until Sunday, December 18
01732 810378
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

A WINTRY Ightham Mote will be open to the public to come and enjoy its Victorian and American-style Christmas displays. Visitors can enter the ground floor of the house where they will find the library and great hall both dressed for the festive season. Parts of the formal garden are also open for visitors to savour. The Mote restaurant is taking bookings for brunch and there are treks through the grounds in the New Year. The National Trust shop has a stock of cards and gift ideas ready for the festive season and on weekends until Christmas there will be activities for children, including carol-singing and interaction with Queen Victoria herself. The delightful venue is open from 11am- 3pm, Thursday to Sunday.



Seaside gig for Andre Tickets now on sale!

Winter Gardens, Margate
Monday, November 19, 2012
01843 292795
www.eticketing/margatewintergardens

REALITY popstar Peter Andre has announced his UK tour for 2012 and it includes a visit to Margate's Winter Gardens. The Up Close & Personal tour will see Andre performing with his band on Monday, November 19, playing songs from his new album plus all his classic hits, including Mysterious Girl and Behind Closed Doors. Andre, who has recently appeared in I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here as well as in his own television show, has decided to play more intimate venues next time round after his sell-out arena tour last year. Tickets cost £28.50 for the Margate gig and are on sale now.

Santa moves From grotto to the tower

Crampton Tower, Broadstairs
01843 871133
www.cramptontower.co.uk

SANTA is vacating his annual stopover at the Shell Grotto in Margate this year due to conservation work. The Grotto Christmas team is moving the Santa Experience

to the Crampton Tower Museum in Broadstairs. This new spot for Santa also offers visitors the chance to see Crampton's model railways. Grotto-owner Sarah Vickery said: "We've regularly been listed in the national press as one of the top 10 places in the UK to visit Santa. I'm looking forward to the team re-creating that experience in a new, exciting venue." Santa will be welcoming all on Saturday and Sunday, December 10-11, and Saturday to Friday, December 17-23, from 1pm-4pm. The cost is £5.50 per child.



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(by the Bandstand)
Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT92HL

Contact: **01843 226033**
Email: **k.chadband@btinternet.com**

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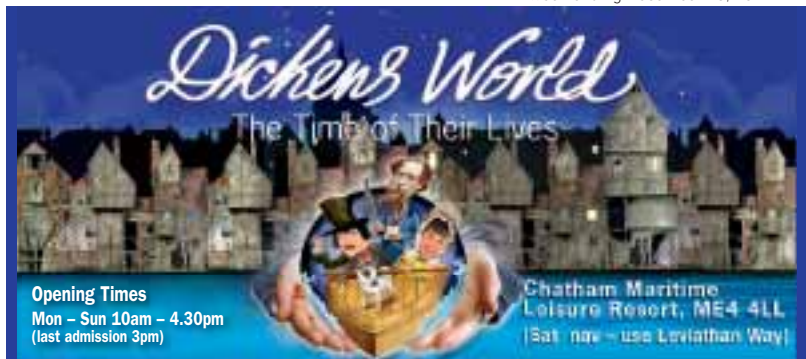


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Wed 21st Dec & Thurs 22nd Dec • £44.50 per person.



Porters New Years Eve Party - 31st December 2011

Join us to see in the New Year 2012 at Porters Bar!

Party starts from 8pm • Doors open from 7pm

Your night includes:

- Delicious curry buffet • Indoor Snow Fall to the sounds of Big Ben in the Dickens World Court Yard at Mid Night
- PHATRAXDISCO to entertain you until 2am

PHATRAXDISCO presents all your old and new music hits with a Bounce & Boom sound system and an O.M.G intelligent Light & Laser show. £25.00 per person (adult only event) Event must be pre-booked, please call Dickens World on - 01634 890421 to make your booking.



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Casino Games, DJ until 2am. **£75.00 per adult. Over 18's only.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Porters NYE Party with Curry Buffet & Disco - £25.00

The Valentine Lovers Party Night with Hot Chocolate Performing Live - Fri 10th Feb - £25.00

Time for Tea Music Hall Sensation - Wednesday 22nd February 2012

£5.00 including Cream Tea, Scone & Cucumber Sandwiches

DICKENS BICENTENARY YEAR 2012

Celebrating Dickens - Tuesday 7th February 2012

Dickensians Have Talent - Wednesday 8th February 2012

Mr Fezziwigs Ball - Saturday 11th February 2012

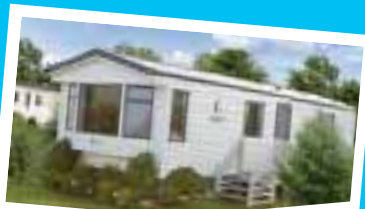


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Puss in Boots 3D (U)
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (12A)
Tin Tin 2D (PG)
Twilight: Breaking Dawn part 1 (12A)
ODEON KIDS
A Christmas Carol 2D (PG)
SENIOR SCREEN
Mr Popper's Penguins (PG)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421



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SHOPPING

PLENTY OF TIME!

The big day may be next weekend, but that doesn't mean it's too late to hit the internet to arrange for some last-minute deliveries of those must-have presents



Make the most of last-minute deals

CHRISTMAS is a time for giving – but have you actually bought the presents you are going to give?

Some people may have built up to the festive season with several carefully-considered purchases over the past few months to ensure they are fully prepared and can avoid any last-minute rush.

But for many the lead-up to the season of goodwill is the time to buy their Christmas gifts, and often with lots of delays as you try to work out what to buy.

There is bound to be even more of a frenzy of activity in the coming days as the day itself draws ever closer.

But if you have in fact left your Christmas shopping until the last minute it's not all bad news. There are plenty of offers out there, whether it's a visit to the shops you are planning, or time in front of the computer.

High-street stores have begun a blitz of sales and promo-

tions before the big day in a bid to get shoppers spending.

Online offers are also available and this weekend there is still time to put your orders in and be guaranteed that whatever you want will arrive in time for the big day.

In a major bid to boost their figures, shops have launched early sales, with prices cut by up to 50 per cent on popular gifts such as televisions, toys and perfumes.

Toys R Us has cut some prices by half, while Marks & Spencer has 25 per cent off menswear. Argos, Littlewoods and BHS have up to 50 per cent off, and Oasis and House of Fraser 40 per cent off. And, of course, there will be massive activity over the internet, with an estimated 46 per cent of online shoppers leaving their purchases to the last minute.

Friday at 3pm is the online deadline for next-day delivery from H Samuel if you want to ensure you have something

sparkly to give, while Hotel Chocolat says it can also take orders and deliver in time on the same day.

Details of the special offers from other leading stores and brands are constantly appearing online as stores look to grab as big a chunk of the marketplace as possible.

Many smaller independent stores are also offering deals.

Almost half of UK shoppers will be doing last-minute online shopping in the week leading up to December 25, according to the Eptica Christmas 2011 Retail Experience Study.

And Amazon says it can deliver in time for the big day even during the coming week – although the sooner you place your order the better the deal on postage is likely to be.

Overall, UK consumers are expected to spend more than £13.5 billion over Christmas, but this year they are expected to be more selective in their spending.

Photography by Mike AVERY

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STAGE & ARTS

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Gilbert's back! O'Sullivan on the road again

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Tuesday, March 20
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

GILBERT O'Sullivan, one of the country's most revered singers, songwriters and musicians, celebrates an amazing 45-year recording career as he heads for The Orchard Theatre in Dartford as part of his UK tour.

The gigs coincide with the release of A Singer And His Songs – The Very Best Of Gilbert O'Sullivan on March 5, 2012.

O'Sullivan's songs have appeared in TV series including The Simpsons and Life On Mars and in films such as The Virgin Suicides, Stuart Little, and Stuck On You.

His songs have been covered by acts such as Elton John, Nina Simone, Andy Williams, The Pet Shop Boys, Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones. He is joined by an 11-piece band, including a string quartet, in a two-hour show.



Tap into some Irish dancing Celtic Feet

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday, March 1
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

IN 2009 an Irish dance spectacular brought to The Orchard by UK promoters The Entertainers earned a standing ovation. And next year the same

people will be bringing a new production to town – the international hit Celtic Feet. The show features a cast full of world-champion dancers, including Ciara Sexton, female lead in Lord Of The Dance, plus stars of Riverdance and Irish television. "As well as an all-star cast, there's a flurry of sensational costumes and the most authentic mix of Irish music, performed by an incredible live band," said Michael Taylor, of The Entertainers. Twice-world-champion Irish dancer Dermot Cullen also joins the cast.

Ben Mills party New Year bash has an X factor

Kings Hall, Herne Bay
Saturday, December 31
www.the kingshall.com
01227 787787

KENT X Factor star Ben Mills is the special guest entertainer at the New Year's Eve party in Herne Bay's Kings Hall. Along with his band, a local

boy band will entertain guests long into the night, with resident DJs providing some cracking tunes.

There will be fun for the whole family, with cabaret-style seating and a dance floor to welcome in the new year.

The bar will be open for refreshments until 12.30am and there will be snacks available to buy.

Tickets cost £20 for adults and £10 for under-12s; doors open at 8pm.

Ben has two 45-minute sets, from 9pm-9.45pm and 10.15pm-11pm.



Fleetwood Mac tribute Gig rumours are rife

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Sunday, January 22
01892 530613
www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

TRIBUTE act Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac chart the songs of arguably the world's first supergroup at Tunbridge Wells next month. From their inception in 1967 with Peter Green, Mick Fleetwood and John McVie through to Rumours in the 70s with Stevie Nicks and Lindsay Buckingham, and then on to their more recent work in the 80s and 90s, Fleetwood Mac hit the musical heights.

Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac have now performed Fleetwood Mac anthems to more than 450,000 Mac fans worldwide, touring with Mick Fleetwood's golden seal of approval. Tickets cost £22.50 and are available from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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WINTER SECURITY

Don't let the Chistmas crooks ruin your holiday season

DURING the long, dark nights, it is time to think about the security of your home as the early nights make it easier for burglars to operate.

Christmas is a time for giving – but in recent years it has been increasingly a time for taking, too, as unscrupulous criminals take advantage of the season of goodwill.

The longer hours of darkness give a greater chance of concealment for thieves, who can target properties – they know there may be presents around which could be a tempting target, and with many people out

partying or visiting, homes can be empty during the evenings on a more frequent basis than usual.

Police say that if you can look through the window and see a whole range of presents under the tree, so can a passing thief – so it is important to keep presents out of sight.

A break-in at Christmas will ruin the festive season and cause immense grief and heartache, so here is some advice on keeping the home safe.

Of course, it is important to have good-quality locks, but you can reduce your risk of suffering a burglary

by just taking a few simple measures:

■ Lock all doors and windows when you go out at night.

■ Ensure multi-point door locks are fully activated while you are out and while you are sleeping by lifting the handle and turning the key.

■ Draw your curtains after dark if you go out, and leave a light on.

■ If you are out of the house after dusk, use timer switches to automatically turn lights on in the house or porch to give the impression occupants are entering and leaving rooms in a normal way throughout the evening.

■ Don't just leave a hall light on as an observant intruder will guess that you are not living solely in the hallway.

■ If you have a house alarm, set it overnight to cover downstairs.

■ Don't leave door or car keys in sight of windows or within reach of doors where they can be hooked through the letterbox.

■ Lock away garden tools that could be used to force entry.

■ Beware of bogus callers. Check the identity of a caller with the door safety chain on, or use a spy hole.

■ External security lighting, with

infra-red sensors, will not only detect intruders but will also allow you to approach and see if anyone is lurking.

■ Talk to your neighbours about when you are going out so that if they are at home they can keep an eye out. Then offer to do the same for them.

■ If you are gone for the holidays, get a trusted friend to pay a few visits. They can then get rid of any tell-tale build-up of mail.



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HOMES

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Old water tower site now home to fabulous homes



HILLREED Homes has just built two homes on the site of the Old Water Tower at Carmans Close, Loose, near Maidstone

This is a residential area of well-established homes into which have been slotted two four-bedroom linked detached houses. The defunct water tower (above) has been removed.

Just over half a mile from the centre of Loose village, residents have easy access to the county town of Maidstone with its retail centres, market days, multiplex cinema, fitness club, restaurants and two nightclubs.

A Hillreed spokesman said: "Add to this the theatres, golf courses, tennis clubs, squash clubs and good schooling and you will see why these two homes are in a superb location.

"Already one has sold off-plan and now only plot 2 remains. This is an attractive, four-

bedroom linked detached house at £339,950. The house has an attached garage and plenty of car space plus a sunny-aspect rear garden.

"This house is a show home and its 1,126 sq ft of living space has been beautifully presented to enable potential buyers to fully appreciate all it has to offer.

"Within the marketing price, buyers benefit from all the fitted carpets and curtains as seen plus light fittings and the joy of a rear garden which has already been turfed."

Currently available is a discount of up to £12,000 for a quick exchange on the properties.

For those with a home to sell, there is the opportunity to take up Hillreed's part-exchange facilities subject to usual terms and conditions. The part exchange incentive cannot be used in conjunction with the discount offer.

Market shows glimmer of growth

BRITAIN'S biggest building society is predicting no interest rate rise until 2013 but small falls in house prices in the coming months after a recent survey of the market.

Nationwide's forecasts came as it reported a rise in profits for the six months ending September 30, which was helped by a 48 per cent increase in mortgage lending.

The society, which provides home loans to more than one million UK housebuyers, said that during the period it lent more than £1.2 billion to some 10,000 first-time buyers – up 3 per cent on the same period last year.

This is good news for the sluggish market as any movement in homes transactions is a

positive step. The Government has also announced several initiatives to boost the market, including a mortgage indemnity scheme that lets lenders offer 95 per cent loans on new-build homes, which should cut the deposit that housebuyers need.

Chris Rhodes, Nationwide's product and marketing director, said the initiatives were "not going to set the market alight" but any stimulus to the property business "has got to be good news, however small you might see it".

He said those saving for a deposit should be given more help through higher tax-free Isa limits. Nationwide wants the annual cash Isa limit of £5,340 increased to £10,680.

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Sundridge, Kent **£500,000-£600,000**

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Ashington, West Sussex **Offers ieo £135,000**

Existing property to be divided to create a separate dwelling comprising 1 bedroom, 2 receptions, kitchen, bathroom and garden

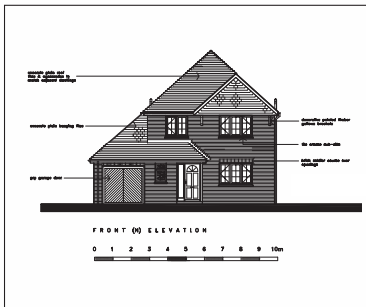


Berwick, East Sussex **Guide Price £1 million**

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WANTED

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Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex **£130,000**

Single plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom property of approximately 1,750 sq ft



Wingham, Kent **Offers Invited**

3.5 acre site with planning permission for a replacement dwelling surrounded by open countryside - further land available, if required



Maidstone, Kent **£235,000**

Single building plot with planning permission for a detached 4 bedroom house of approximately 2,500 sq ft

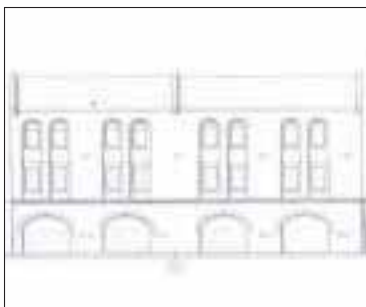


Greatstone, Kent **£150,000**

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REAL LITTLE BEAUTY:

Renault has given its 'baby' Twingo a facelift with bright new colours that should be a hit with female motorists, and the pocket rocket 133 Silverstone GP, pictured left

Renault goes Twingo again

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DOWNSIZING has been a buzzword for the past few years, given emphasis by the economic and ecological downturn.

So Renault – with an illustrious history in the small car sector – probably thought it had it cracked by launching the Twingo city car here in 2007 – just as the recession unleashed its fury.

But the French marque failed to realise that many downsizers wanted to keep some of the comfort and style of their bigger cars.

Though three-door only, the car's practicality was beyond dispute; the cabin was spacious and the 50/50 split sliding rear seats were brilliant, allowing young families to quickly customise rear seat/boot space according to the journey.

But the Twingo was a bit plain inside and out.

Fortunately, sportier models added spice with extra power and cosmetic flair and some of that *je ne sais quoi* has now transferred to a facelift across the Renault baby's line-up due in January, priced from £8,995 and well specified as standard.

They certainly deliver far more impact on the eye, as one of Renault's design chiefs explained:

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Best rival:
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"Our aim was to reinforce the fun, colourful and friendly character of Twingo, in particular by working on the range of colours and materials."

This will chime with those seen as the car's core customers, city-based women, who will like the bright new bright hues and roof decals allowing the car to be customised more like the BMW Mini and Fiat 500.

But what about the boys? Well, they haven't been forgotten, as I found when I tried the limited edition Twingo Renaultsport 133 Silverstone GP (£14,995) flagship.

It's a point-and-shoot pocket rocket in the tradition of the marque's 5 Turbo and Clio Williams, and looks the part with its fearsome black grille, though the younger generation drawn to it might then have problems with the 22E insurance group.

They could be happy to weigh that though against the car's affordability and generous kit plus the fact that despite a lowered and grippy Renault Cup chassis – with extra wide track, stiffer springs and low profile black alloys – it is not the bone shaker you might expect.

Diesels are usually too heavy and expensive for small cars, but the Twingo powertrains are exclusively petrol, thank goodness, and modest on road tax and fuel.

No performance worries from the new Ford Zetec S

FORD launches a performance flagship ST version of its Focus family hatch next summer, but has a new sporty Zetec S available now and tailored to British tastes.

Priced from £18,745 and available with the much-admired turbocharged 1.6-litre 180PS (178bhp) EcoBoost petrol engine, it features a full sports styling kit and 17-inch alloys, plus sports suspension, aluminium-style sports pedals, rear LED tail lamps and starter button.

Available in the five-door Focus bodystyle, with an estate to follow in February, the Zetec S has a choice of four engines including the 1.6-litre turbo offering 138mph and 0-62mph in just 7.9 seconds, but it emits just 139g/km of CO2.

Any Focus Zetec S with this engine or the 1.6-litre 115PS TDCi diesel also has Ford's Econetic pack: auto start-stop, gear shift indicator and other green features.

Prices for Zetec S are just

£1,250 above the equivalent Zetec derivative – the additional features would normally add more than £1,700.

Ford's pricing also puts this mini-range on a par with the prestigious Titanium spec, allowing customers to choose either sport or luxury for the same money.

Meanwhile, the eagerly awaited Focus ST hot hatchback stars in the new blockbuster movie, The Sweeney alongside Jack Regan (Ray Winstone) and George Carter (Ben Drew aka Plan B) as Flying Squad detectives battling against crime.

The Focus also continues to underpin Ford's status as UK market leader; latest figures from the industry's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) show that the Ford Fiesta supermini and the Focus are the UK's number one and two top sellers for the year to date, with the Ford Transit heading the commercial sales charts.



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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRI hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRI 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-2k (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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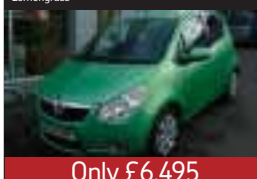
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 14.4 (19.6)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7)-80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions: 324-94g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.

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Based on official VCA figures for New Micra 1.2 DIG-S Acenta/Tekna: 15.2 mpg, 41 litres per tank. Fuel consumption figures for Nissan Micra DIG-S Range: URBAN 47.9-56.5mpg (5.9-5.0L/100km), EXTRA URBAN 62.8-78.5mpg (4.5-3.6L/100km), COMBINED 56.5-68.9mpg (5.0-4.1L/100km) CO₂ emissions 115-95g/km.

MOTORING

Citroën making a welcome return to former DS glories

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WE HAVE witnessed a return to one of the heydays of Citroën's past, when the innovative French brand attracted buyers at both ends of the spectrum.

This was in the 1950s when Citroën sold the legendary 2CV budget car alongside its luxurious DS.

With the revival of the famous DS branding – French enunciation of those initials is a pun on the Gallic word for goddess – via the Mini-bashing DS3 in 2010, and then the DS4 family hatch this year, the marque has again created a line-up to please both ends of the buying spectrum.

This will be even more evident early next year when it launches the impressive DS5.

It has a design said to be inspired by the world of aviation and the line-up includes an innovative diesel-electric hybrid model.

The DS5 has already been voted Family Car of the Year by BBC Top Gear Magazine at its prestigious 2011 awards: "The DS5 is a well-grounded, slick, futuristic machine, both inside and out.

The inside is quirky but rational, exciting but functional and put together with considerable care, just like the rest of the car. And that makes it very pleasing indeed.

All of which goes to show that because the DS5 isn't a half-hearted copy of a German saloon, it's the better for it."



CURRENT CROP: The Citroën DS5 is tipped to do well in both the private and business sectors and was voted Top Gear Magazine's family car of the year 2011

The DS3 won both Top Gear's Small Car of the Year and overall Car of the Year accolades in 2010, and Citroën UK managing director Linda Jackson said: "Standing out from the crowd with its unique looks, Citroën flair and innovative Hybrid4 technology, the new DS5 is about an outstanding motoring experience for the whole family to enjoy."

The DS5 Hybrid4 is tipped to do well in both private and business sectors thanks to its fuel economy, low CO2 emissions making it exempt from road tax and London congestion charge, plus a benefit-in-kind taxation rate of just 10 per cent.

It is also likely to be a versatile car with 200bhp on tap thanks to the diesel engine being partnered with electric power that also endows the car with all-wheel drive. Conventional diesels will also be available with prices for the DS5 range tipped to start at around £22,500.

New Civic's new-year debut

HONDA'S ninth generation Civic hits showrooms after Christmas and is arguably the most stylish so far.

Without throwing away the futuristic good looks of its predecessor, Honda designers have managed to make it more of a crowd-pleaser this time, adding to its other big appeal – it is made in the UK at Swindon.

However, while Honda pursued a similar course on design, it has taken a new tack on safety inside and out, with additional attention to distributing impact forces away from the cabin and also working to protect of pedestrians and cyclists in an accident, with features such as windscreen wiper pivots designed to break away on impact, and energy absorbing front wing mounts.

Prices for this descendant of the original 1972 Civic start at £16,495 and the engine options at launch are 1.4 or 1.8 petrol, or 2.2 diesel, with a fuel-saving stop/go system on manual versions.

A five-inch dashboard screen shows

mpg, stop/go status, climate and audio settings. There is also an ECON mode to save fuel as seen on the Jazz Hybrid and Insight.

The flagship for now will be the £26,595 diesel 2.2 i-DTEC EX GT. Honda hasn't revealed whether it will top that with a Type-R performance flagship to replace the current version, but some bets are on a proposed hot Mugen version of the CR-Z hybrid coupé taking over the Type-R's role in the marketplace.

Standard kit on entry level Civic SE models includes that dashboard screen as well as 16-inch alloys, automatic air-conditioning and USB connectivity for compatible MP3 audio devices.

At the other end of the range in EX GT trim, buyers get keyless entry/ignition, front and rear parking sensors, bi-xenon headlights and lumbar support, panoramic glass roof, 17-inch alloys, privacy glass and auto-dimming rear view mirror.



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SAAB 9-3 1.9TID Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Diesel, 2007 07 Reg, 45,372 miles, Metallic Silver, 2 Owners, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Service indicator, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Solid Paint, Partial leather seat trim, Reverse parking aid, Space saver spare wheel, Insurance Group 12.....**£8,795**

SAAB 9-3 1.8T Vector S, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2004 54 Reg, 57,807 miles, Metallic Silver, 2 Owners, Full Service History, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Partial leather seat trim, Reverse parking aid, Solid Paint, Space saver spare wheel, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Service indicator, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Insurance Group 12.....**£3,795**

SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2002 02 Reg, 101,420 miles, Black, 3 Owners, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Rear airbag, Radio/Cassette/CD, Side airbags, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Electric height adjustable drivers/passengers seat, Reverse parking aid, Heated front seat, Insurance Group 17.....**£2,995**

SAAB 9-3 2.0T SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2001 51 Reg, 104,462 miles, Blue, 2 Owners, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Side airbags, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear electric windows, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Rear wiper, Insurance Group 13.....**£1,795**

SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 2001 Y Reg, 142,150 miles, Metallic Silver, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Rear airbag, Side airbags, Radio/Cassette, Side airbags, Rear headrests, Traction control, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Height adjustable drivers seat, PAS, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Insurance Group 17A.....**£1,695**

FORD Focus 1.6 Style, 5 Doors, Automatic, Hatchback, Petrol, 2008 58 Reg, 8,000 miles, BLUE, 1 Owner, Adjustable steering column/wheel, Anti theft system, Central locking, Colour coding, Body computer, Driver airbag, Electric mirrors, Electric windows, Foglights, Full Service History, Head restraints, Folding rear seats, Park distance control, Remote locking, Body coloured bumpers, Front fog lights, PAS, Remote central locking, Rear wiper, ABS, Air conditioning, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Steel wheels, Cloth seat trim, Space saver spare wheel, Audio remote control, Solid Paint, Insurance Group 6, LOW MILEAGE.....**£7,195**

BMW 118d SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, 2005 05 Reg, 78,435 miles, Grey, 3 Owners, ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Traction control, Cloth seat trim, Audio remote control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, PAS, Service indicator, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Height adjustable drivers seat, Rear wiper, Solid Paint, Reverse parking aid, Insurance Group 11.....**£6,895**

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions for the Škoda range 237 – 89g/km.

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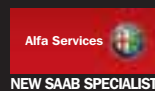
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Metallic star silver, 35,000 miles. **£2,995**
- * 02 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 130i Zetec 5-Dr Hatchback**
Metallic machine silver, 46,700 miles. **£2,995**
- * 05 Volkswagen Golf 1.9 TDI Sport Hatchback**
Silver, FSH. **£7,296**
- * 06 Plate. Fiat Grande Punto 1.3 16v Multijet 90**
Dynamic 3-Dr Metallic Green, 44,500 miles, Manual, Diesel. **£4,995**
- * 03 Plate. Toyota Corolla 1.8 VVT-i T Sport 5-Dr**
Silver Steel Metallic, 69,000 miles. **£4,995**

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

GOLF



NEAR-MISS: Benn Barham

Battling Benn falters late on at Q-School

BENN Barham's hopes of regaining a full European Tour card were dashed as he faded in the final stage of Qualifying School.

The Tenterden golfer began superbly in Spain, making the cut after four rounds in a share of 15th place.

The 35-year-old's challenge was derailed by shooting seven-over-par in the fifth round, which sent him tumbling down the standings.

Despite the setback he returned to contention for one of the 30 full cards on offer by picking up five birdies in Thursday's final round, before three bogeys in the last six holes proved decisive.

Deal's Francis McQuirk did well to make the cut after carding a 76 in the first round, but he also wilted in the final 36 holes to finish off the pace.

Kent's other representative was Maidstone's Matt Ford, who missed the cut.

CRICKET

Willis thrilled as Kent's pair of aces commit their futures to county

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

KENT are delighted to have wrapped up lengthy contract extensions which will keep two of their brightest prospects at the club for the foreseeable future.

Opening batsman Daniel Bell-Drummond and seamer Adam Ball signed new deals this week to stay at the St Lawrence Ground for another two and three summers respectively.

Both players, aged just 18, have impressed on first-team duty after progressing from Kent's academy, going on to play for an England under-19 side captained by Bell-Drummond.

If there is a silver lining to Kent's recent financial problems, it is the increased willingness to throw promising youngsters in at the deep end early in their careers.

Simon Willis, Kent's high performance director, admitted there was a chance neither would have had an opportunity to impress four of five years ago when the first-team squad was deeper, but is thrilled after watching them progress through the ranks.

"Both guys have a bright future," he said. "Given our situation as a club they are going to have great opportunities to develop their game and get exposure to first-team cricket."

"Being products of our youth system we want them to be part of our team and not disappear to other teams. Given the hard work we have put in during their time in the youth teams it's good to see that faith being repaid."

"Realistically any player is going to assess their circumstances and see what's best for them. It's pleasing both lads want to represent Kent."



HIGHLY-RATED:

Teenagers Daniel Bell-Drummond (left) and Adam Ball have both impressed on first-team duty for Kent

Bell-Drummond is regarded as one of the most exciting young batsmen in the country. The aggressive opener ended the campaign opening the batting in the absence of the injured Rob Key, making three successive LV= County Championship appearances, averaging 21.

Ball, a left-arm seamer, made his first-team debut at the end of last season. This season he also became an established member of the Kent Spitfires' t20 side, taking 10 wickets at an average of 28.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the county also agreed an extension to veteran seamer Simon Cook's contract.

The one-year deal will keep the bowler,

who turns 35 next month, at the St Lawrence Ground for an eighth successive summer. He had been in negotiations with the club for several weeks and is the final out of contract player from this season's squad to have their future decided.

Cook, who made his Kent debut in 2005, said: "I am looking forward to helping us start to rebuild a team which can challenge for honours again. I am sure with the players we have, we will cause a few upsets during the 2012 season."

With more than 340 first-class wickets on his CV, the consistent Cook's experience will be a useful asset in a youthful changing room.



Picture: ADY KERRY

MOTORSPORT

Steele eyes F2 drive after a testing time in Spain

A TASTE of Formula Two has given Aaron Steele the appetite to aim for a full season in the series next year.

The 23-year-old took part in a test day at the Formula One circuit in Barcelona this week, as a reward for dominating the F3 Cup.

Budgetary considerations will play a key role in determining where Steele drives next year, but he is hoping this week's test is not the last time he steps into an F2 cockpit.

He said: "Overall the whole F2 set up, from the mechanics, organisers, cars and race engineers, was amazing. Extremely professional and slick, something I really hope to become a part of in 2012."

Adjusting to the more powerful car was a steep learning curve for Steele, but the Rochester racer was pleased to finish the day 14th out of 18 drivers.

He said: "Obviously the



RACE ACE: Aaron Steele

power was the first thing, with 425hp it was a lot quicker accelerating than I was used to but I quickly adapted to that.

"My lasting memory and biggest challenge was getting used to the braking, just how hard you need to brake and how late, it was incredible."

"This is where I will find all of my time to the pace setters and I just need more time in the car to practice."

CRICKET

Dispute over village green continues to threaten an historic cricket club

THE future of cricket on Bearsted Green remains at risk from health and safety issues, despite the success of a Facebook campaign which attracted more than 1,200 signatures in just four days, including a number of high-profile former international players.

Bearsted Cricket Club fear they may be forced to leave their home since 1749 because of the menace of legal action from local residents, who claim balls landing on their properties could cause serious injury.

"There is a serious risk one of the individuals [living by the green] will take us to court," first team captain Andrew Dampier said. "They have threatened this already on many an occasion. If we were stopped the club would fold after 262 years. As for the green, who knows what it would be used for."

Bearsted Parish Council are trying to resolve the dispute, which has been rumbling for a number of years at a cost of thousands of pounds in legal fees.

Its chairman, Chris Dyke, said: "The problems started when we had Music on the Green," he said, referring to a festival which ran for 12 years



Picture: ADY KERRY

SUPPORTER: Kent's Matt Coles

until the 2011 event was cancelled.

"A number of residents weren't keen on having music on the green and they started to raise all sorts of queries with the borough [Maidstone Borough Council]. We found ourselves having to provide all kinds of paperwork and we pulled the plug for fear we'd incur costs if we had to cancel at a week's notice."

This opened what Dyke called "Pandora's box" and the parish council are now trying to update the cricket club's lease.

Dyke believes the club were upset by some of the things they saw in the first

draft of the lease but says "my job is to iron these out" and is confident he will.

"Cricket has been on there for 261 years and I think it will probably be there for another 261, but people are also entitled to worry about being hit by cricket balls," he said.

The club made national headlines in September when Dampier and his brother Ian, both off-duty police officers, arrested Maria Chiappini, who lives in a property adjoining the green, after she invaded the pitch during a match to protest about balls landing in her garden. Mrs Chiappini, who also claimed she was abused by a player, was detained for several hours and fined £80, though she appealed and has lodged a complaint about her treatment.

Dampier's Facebook campaign to Save Bearsted Cricket Club attracted the backing of cricketers past and present, including Kent's Matt Coles plus former internationals Sir Ian Botham, Jonathan Agnew, Alan Butcher and David Lloyd.

The owner of Maidstone-based Lashings World XI David Folb has also added his support, offering to send a team of former internationals to the green next summer.

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

FISHER V TUNBRIDGE WELLS:

Champion Hill, kick-off 3pm Saturday

After cup success Larkin re-focuses on league form

By David Pritchard

david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

THE bread and butter of Kent League football returns for Tunbridge Wells this weekend after coming through an exhausting series of cup games this month.

A blank midweek provided welcome respite for the squad after their Kent Senior Trophy tie at Woodstock Sports went to penalties last Saturday. Wells came through, winning 4-2 on spot kicks, but it left the players drained coming so soon after two FA Vase games against VCD Athletic, one of which also went to extra time.

Fortunately Saturday's contest at Fisher will only last 90 minutes, but it provides an important pre-Christmas test for the squad.

Champion Hill has been a happy hunting ground for the Wells, who won there twice last season, beating landlords Dulwich Hamlet in the FA Cup and Fisher 5-0 in the league. They also won 7-1 in the reverse fixture at Culverden, but Steve Firkins' side are a much improved outfit so far in this campaign and go into the game just a point behind their opponents, albeit having played three more games.

Wells boss Martin Larkin is suitably wary of the hosts but is keen to make sure his side's cup exploits do not distract from the league campaign.

He said: "That's the important bit. We have gone down a bit in the table with not playing league games but it's a ground where we've had great success in the last couple of years.



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

AVAILABLE: Influential forward Andy Irvine is expected to return after several weeks out injured

"We'll go there and hopefully perform. We're playing well but they have an exceptional side with some very good players – if we take three points away from there I'll be very happy."

For the first time in several months there is a fully fit squad competing for selection. The final player to exit the Culverden treatment room with a clean bill of health is Andy Irvine, who was an

unused substitute at Woodstock after recovering from ankle ligament damage.

Larkin also had cause to celebrate after being named Kent League's manager of the month for November.

He said: "You can't win these awards without the players – they are the ones who execute our ideas so the credit should go to them."

TUNBRIDGE WELLS RFC V SEVENOAKS RFC:

St Mark's Recreation Ground, kick-off 2pm

Wells hope to fell Oaks in pre-Christmas derby clash

LOCAL pride adds spice to Tunbridge Wells' final game before the winter break as Sevenoaks visit St Mark's this weekend.

Both sides are in need of some seasonal cheer after underwhelming starts to the campaign have left them in London 2 South East's bottom four.

Tunbridge Wells went down 22-5 at home to Old Dunstonians last weekend, while Sevenoaks were on the receiving end of their biggest defeat of the season, losing 71-10 at Lewes.

The Oaks came out on top in the reverse fixture on the second weekend of the season, winning 21-11. Roger Clarke, Tunbridge Wells' chairman, described his side's performance that day as "absolutely dreadful" and while the game is not their fiercest derby they are desperate to make amends.

He said: "It's not as spicy as Tonbridge Juddians, but you always like to win the local derbies. After TJs, Sevenoaks are next because over the years they've been there or thereabouts in the leagues we've been in.



Picture: BRUCE ELLIOTT

RIVALS: Oaks won in September

"We said we wanted to win two of our last three games before the break, plus a bonus point, and that's still achievable. We just have to keep the faith."

Fly-half Matt Newman is available again after missing last weekend's game through unavailability.

FOOTBALL

Duo make Culverden exit over lack of appearances

THE size of the Tunbridge Wells' squad decreased by two players this week as Sam Phillips and Scott Whibley chose to move on.

Both players left due to a lack of first-team football, but the manner of their exit was contrasting.

Phillips' decision had been expected to some degree as he struggled to justify the time spent training for limited action away from his young family.

Wells boss Martin Larkin could not guarantee a place in the starting line-up and was sorry to see a player who had racked up more than 200 appearances for the club leave.

He said: "It's been brewing for a few weeks. It's a shame but being away for two nights a week and most of Saturday was too much. He goes with our best wishes, Sam was a massively popular member of the squad."

Whibley's choice was more surprising and came after he was an unused substitute for both the club's FA Vase games against VCD Athletic earlier this month.

Larkin felt the player had understood the reasons behind the deci-



POPULAR: Sam Phillips

sion at the time, but it prompted Whibley to leave.

He said: "It's disappointing, plenty of players have had time on the bench this season, but Scott didn't want to do that."

"The club's a great place to be at the minute so it's a strange decision. We've got cover for every position, so I'm not worried it will leave us short."

Both players were expected to join up with former Wells teammate Alex Rich at Sussex County League side Crowborough.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

Beware the free lunch brigade

“THE following scene takes place in the well-appointed boardroom of a middle-ranking non-league club, somewhere in Kent around a year ago.

An array of light snacks and drinks, both alcoholic and soft, has been laid out for guests, officials and visiting directors.

The visiting directors sweep in and examine the food with the tact and delicacy of Gordon Ramsay, poised to humiliate some cowering underling.

It is no exaggeration to say they are genuinely outraged by what they have been offered. "Is that it?" one splutters.

"You just can't get away with this," another says. "This is completely unacceptable. We're a big club you know."

The visiting entourage sweep out of the boardroom in the highest of dudgeon and are forced to slum it with the plebs elsewhere in the ground, where the food on offer consists of the cardiac-compromising fare you typically find at grounds.

There is a school of thought that argues if someone offers you a free meal, you might not necessarily have to enjoy it but you should at least be grateful and that complaining is bad form.

In the arcane world of non-league football however, the importance of a free lunch can't be overstated. Quite why it's so important isn't entirely clear, although one explanation is that the game is riddled with gluttonous directors, spuriously-titled officials and (certain) members of the press who feel they have a divine entitlement to a complimentary nosebag.

Quite where this convention came from isn't entirely clear. It is true a club can do wonders for its public relations by providing influential hacks and FA apparatchiks with freebies, but at non-league level you have to wonder just how much there is to be gained.

I once covered a game at Margate and even as a confirmed non-gourmet I was staggered by the free food afterwards, which was comparable to anything I'd had when lucky enough to work at Lord's or the Emirates. I left Hartsdown Park with a glowing view of Margate FC, but was unable to work out how I'd be able to make any reference to the excellence of their catering in the match report I had to write, or how much it was costing them.

At a time when football clubs are finding it even more difficult than usual to break even, the hospitality budget is an obvious candidate for the axe, but clubs do so at their peril.

At a recent meeting of a middle-ranking Football League member, the clubs were treated to a lecture.

"I quite often feel like taking my wife to a game," an official said. "But when I get there I find there's nothing to eat other than sausage rolls and vol-au-vents, so please remember the importance of a good spread."

Indeed. Remember those less fortunate than yourselves this Christmas.



The Spirit of Christmas Present



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